

Socialist publications need your support

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The socialist publications need your help!

Donations are being solicited for a \$100,000 Socialist Publication Fund this spring beginning March 15. The fund helps support the *Militant*, the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the books and pamphlets of Pathfinder Press, the biweekly newsmagazine *Intercontinental Press*, and the Marxist theoretical journal *New International*.

The Socialist Publication Fund does more than maintain these publications, explained Jerry Freiwirth, the fund's director. "The fund makes a crucial contribution in enabling us to expand our operations, to respond to big new developments.

"From the Philippines to South Africa to Nicaragua, from the strike against Hormel to the big abortion rights rallies in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, the socialist publications seek to more quickly get on-the-spot reports. Our sources in the struggle for justice around the world are the fighters themselves," said Freiwirth.

The money raised through this spring's fund, Freiwirth continued, "enables the *Militant* to have a full-time reporting team covering the meatpackers' strike against Hormel in Minnesota.

"And, of course, the fund will help the *Militant* and *PM* maintain their permanent news bureau in Nicaragua."

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Why right to abortion is key to women's equality

BY PAT GROGAN

The right to abortion is under concerted attack. The White House, Congress, state legislatures, and courts have all joined in the attempt to deny women their fundamental right to control their own bodies. Catholic bishops and fundamentalist preachers have helped lead the charge. This has put wind in the sails of right-wing antiabortion fanatics who bomb and burn clinics and who harass and threaten women seeking abortions.

Women's rights supporters have begun a fightback to defend the right to abortion. Demonstrations, picket lines, teach-ins, and clinic defense actions are taking place.

The March 9 and March 16 abortion rights demonstrations, initiated by the National Organization for Women, will be the largest mobilizations in support of a woman's right to abortion in history.

These actions show the determination of women's rights supporters to defend the right to abortion. They have galvanized the majority support for abortion rights and deepened it further.

The actions have provided the opportunity to reach out and win support from unionists, antiwar and anti-apartheid fighters, Black and Latino organizations, farmers, and others who have a stake in the fight for social justice.

The March 9 and March 16 actions should be just the beginning of a sustained campaign to defend abortion rights for all women.

Part of the fightback is to take on the massive propaganda campaign that has been waged against abortion, centering on the theme that abortion is murder.

Protest U.S. aid to Nicaragua 'contras'

Protest demonstrations against the U.S.-organized war in Nicaragua are urgently needed.

President Reagan is pushing ahead with his demand that Congress approve \$100 million in aid to the counterrevolutionary terrorists — known as *contras* in Spanish — who are kidnapping, raping, torturing, and murdering peasants and workers in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, in a much less publicized escalation of U.S. military intervention in

EDITORIAL

Central America, thousands of U.S. troops have begun two new rounds of maneuvers in Honduras, a country that lies between Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Mock full-scale air and land attacks, as well as construction of an airfield and other military installations, are part of the continuing preparations by the Pentagon for a direct invasion should Washington decide to launch one.

Reagan promised "there will be a full-court press" to get the latest round of contra aid through Congress.

His most dramatic pitch so far was made as he met in Washington with three central leaders of the U.S.-organized mercenaries: Arturo Cruz, Alfonso Robelo, and Adolfo Calero. Also in town was Edén Pastora, leader of the contra group known as the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, which



Funeral in Managua, Nicaragua. U.S.-organized war has resulted in the deaths of 15,000 Nicaraguans in past five years. Militant/Michael Baumann

operates out of Costa Rica.

It would be a "strategic disaster," Reagan warned; if Congress doesn't fork over the \$100 million. Robelo backed him up, saying that the *contras* "need military aid real fast."

The president predicted dire consequences flowing from a defeat for the mercenaries. It "would mean consolidation of a privileged sanctuary for terrorists and subversives just two days' driving time from Harlingen, Texas," he declared. And, in an appeal to racist, anti-immigrant sentiments, Reagan raised the specter of hundreds of thousands of refugees pouring into the United States.

He also sounded a note that has become a central theme in the ruling-class debate on the contra war — comparing the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship with the *contras'* war to overturn the Nicaraguan government. "I think the world is watching to see if Congress is as committed to democracy in Nicaragua, in our own hemisphere, as it was in the Philippines," said Reagan.

In other words, the Philippines under

Marcos and Nicaragua under the Sandinistas are both dictatorships. And in both cases Washington sides with those fighting against tyranny and for democracy.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R.-Ind.), chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, even went so far as to propose that Washington continue to back the *contras* until Nicaragua has an election "like the Philippines."

The amalgam of the Philippines under Marcos and Nicaragua today involves such a tangle of lies and slanders that it's hard to figure out where to begin to unravel it.

Among the Filipino people, the Ferdinand Marcos government was known as the "U.S.-Marcos dictatorship." And for good reason.

His bloody regime was backed to the hilt by Washington because he protected U.S. corporate investments and the Pentagon's two huge military bases. It was the Filipino people — not Reagan — who got rid of him.

They didn't do it through elections. The

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Hormel strikers win support of unions around country

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

AUSTIN, Minn. — The union support meeting March 4 heard many enthusiastic reports of growing solidarity from across the country for United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9's strike against Hormel here.

Some 1,500 workers went on strike six months ago to win a decent contract.

A dozen strikers and supporters, wearing matching T-shirts and berets given them by United Auto Workers Local 1200 in Detroit, reported on a solidarity rally they attended there. They told the March 4 meeting that 50 union locals in the Detroit area had contributed more than \$12,000 to the strike.

Dan Pedersen reported on the strike solidarity work in St. Louis, Missouri. He and Mark "Bear" Matsching, one of more than 500 workers from UFCW Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa, who were fired and then locked out by Hormel for honoring P-9's picket lines, spoke to many local unions there. They also spoke before a meeting of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

During their visit to St. Louis, Pedersen said they met the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States. At the March 4 meeting Pedersen read a message of solidarity to P-9 from the ambassador.

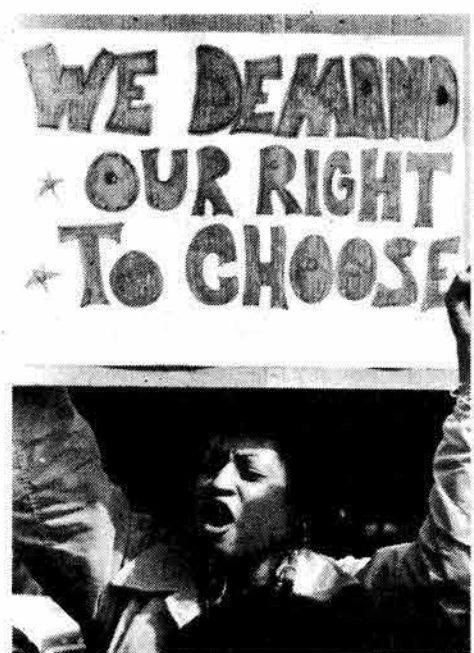
Barb Miller, who had just returned from northern California, reported that she, "Bud" Miller and "Skinny" Weis had spoken to more than 30 local unions. Miller said that each of these unions had pledged to adopt a P-9 family. The team, she said, also addressed the AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils of San Francisco, Alameda, and Santa Clara counties.

The strikers and supporters present applauded when Miller reported that International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 10 promised to send \$13,000 a month for three months.

Miller said that this local also pledged they would "hot cargo" (refuse to load and unload) Hormel products, assist P-9's roving pickets, and help in mass picketing at the plant in Austin.

Since the National Guard was with-

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'Militant' helps discussions at Calif. refinery

BY MIKE BAER

RICHMOND, Calif. — For the past few years, supporters of the *Militant* have been selling at the

A recent *Militant* article on the declining level of real wages was clipped out of the paper and pinned on the bulletin board in the

began to hear other union members use facts and arguments from the article in their discussions on the upcoming contract fight.

A *Militant* article describing the experience of a Shell Oil worker in Louisiana with the 12-hour shift schedule was also widely discussed. Widespread dissatisfaction with the present rotating shift system has enabled Chevron to stir up some sentiment for a 12-hour shift experiment here.

In one control room, copies of the article were passed around. One young worker who had supported the idea of 12-hour shifts commented on the point in the article about how companies like Shell and Chevron use this issue to divide and weaken the union.

Another worker noted all the cutbacks the article described as coming along with the 12-hour shift. He decided that he really didn't favor the idea after all. A third thought the article made some good points, but still was willing to give the 12-hour shift a try.

One member of our local negotiating committee mentioned that a copy of the article was passed around at one recent meeting. He decided to begin using it in the area where he works, pinning it up on bulletin boards in control rooms, lunchrooms, and locker rooms. Other workers who came across it made copies of copies and passed them around to others. In yet another control room, sev-

eral operators mentioned that they had been convinced by the article to oppose the 12-hour shift.

There has also been interest in the *Militant's* coverage of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. This interest has grown as workers think about the issues involved and decide they are opposed to apartheid. One example of this opposition was a petition by workers at the Lube-Pump section against buying South African products. The petition, which was presented to management, called for Chevron to stop buying Fisher Trop wax additive from South Africa and find an alternative supplier. It received a good response. Forty workers, the majority of the operators in the section, signed it.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

gates of the Chevron oil refinery here. *Militant* supporters who work at the refinery have also been circulating the paper on the job.

The contract between Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) Local 1-5 and Chevron expired in early January. The discussion on the fight for a new contract spurred interest in much of the *Militant's* coverage.

kitchen of one control room. The day the article went up, people began reading it. In the following days, more workers read the article. Some began to underline parts of it that they thought were particularly important. For example, the point on how the wages of nonunion workers were falling at an even more dramatic rate than the wages of union members. I

Missouri farmers demand foreclosure moratorium

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Despite freezing temperatures, 1,500 farmers and their supporters assembled on the steps of the Capitol here to demand a moratorium on farm foreclosures, minimum price legislation, and emergency survival assistance for farm families.

The February 11 rally was sponsored by the Farm Alliance of Rural Missouri (FARM). FARM is a statewide coalition of farm groups including American Agriculture Movement Grassroots, American Agriculture Movement Inc., National Farmers Organization, North American Farm Alliance, Missouri Ag Women, and the Missouri Rural Crisis Center.

Linking the struggle of farmers to struggles around the world, Cecil Huff, president of FARM, told the crowd that people in Central America, in the Philippines, and in Haiti, just like family farmers in the United States, are fighting for ownership of the land. To all those who are taking the land away from farmers, Huff said, "We are here to say: 'No more.' We have a law here in Missouri. If you sell a drunk a drink and something happens, you're guilty of induced manslaughter. Well, when a farmer commits suicide, Reagan and the people in there [the State Capitol] are guilty of murder."

The crowd enthusiastically received Michael Dudley, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa. Dudley is one of 500 Hormel workers who were fired for honoring the picket lines of UFCW Local P-9 on strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota.

Dudley told the crowd, "It's time that big business and government got blasted out of bed together! And it's time farmers and labor woke up to the fact that we're the ones with the strength to do it!"

Dan Peterson, a member of UFCW Local P-9, also spoke. Peterson told the crowd that "neither the farmer nor the worker can lose sight of who profits the most from the sweat

of our labors. If the family farm is to survive, if the family of the worker is to survive, we will have to work together. We can no longer afford to see our neighbors in the farm community forced off their land, just as we cannot accept the devastation caused by corporate greed."

Jesse Jackson was the keynote speaker. Jackson told the crowd that "it is time indeed for coalition between rural and urban, Black and white. We must come together and fight for a moratorium."

Also speaking at the rally were Roger Allison of the American Agriculture Movement; Merle Hansen, president, North American Farm Alliance; Wayne Cryts, Democratic Party candidate for Congress; Corky Jones, president, American Agriculture Movement Inc.; Devon Woodland, president, National Farm Organization; and Duke McVey, president, Missouri State Labor Council.

While most of the farmers present were

from Missouri, others came from Illinois, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska.

There were also a number of trade unionists at the rally. They included members of United Mineworkers District 6, the International Association of Machinists, and the United Auto Workers.

The 10 members of UFCW Local 431 became a focal point during the afternoon as farmers, fellow unionists, and civil rights leaders came by with offers of support.

Ariz. trial: sanctuary supporters victimized

BY KATHY OWEN

TUCSON, Ariz. — Four people have been put under house arrest here for refusing to testify for the government in the trial of 11 sanctuary movement activists.

Three supporters of the movement were cited for contempt of court February 18. Three days later, Elba Tereza Lopez, a Salvadoran political refugee, was also subjected to house arrest.

The 11 defendants in the trial are activists in a national network of U.S. churches and synagogues that have aided and given sanctuary to Salvadorans and Guatemalans fleeing repression at the hands of the U.S.-backed regimes in their homelands.

The three supporters of the movement who refused to aid the prosecution will be confined to their homes for the duration of the trial. Now in its fifth month, the trial is expected to last several more weeks. They cannot leave their homes except for medical reasons and to attend weekly church services.

The three are Rev. George Lockwood; Kay Kelly, a church deacon; and Mary Ann Lundy, a national officer of the YWCA in New York.

The fourth, Elba Lopez, explained through her attorney that she feared if she testified she would face increased danger of deportation to El Salvador.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has initiated deportation proceedings against her, as well as against the 14 Central Americans who have testified in the trial.

Lawyers for the sanctuary activists have said that Monsignor John Oliver of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Nogales, Mexico, will also refuse to testify when called by the prosecution.

Lopez is the first of the 15 Central American witnesses to refuse to testify. All

but two of those who have testified at the trial stated that they fled persecution by the governments of their countries.

José Morelos testified that he left Guatemala when the government put his name on a death list. He also said he had been jailed and tortured in that country. But U.S. District Judge Earl Carroll, as he has done throughout the trial, cut off testimony, refusing to let any information about political repression in El Salvador and Guatemala into the trial.

Bolivian, U.S. armies to stage joint maneuvers in Bolivia

The U.S. and Bolivian armed forces will be conducting joint military maneuvers in Bolivia at the end of March.

The joint maneuvers were announced by Bolivian armed forces commander Gen. Raúl López Leyton. The maneuvers were arranged by Gen. John Galvin, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, during a visit to Bolivia.

The Bolivian armed forces receive aid from the U.S. government under three programs: Military Aid Program, Foreign Mil-

itary Sales, and International Military Education and Training.

Bolivia's military officers are trained at the U.S.-run military academy, the School of the Americas.

According to Bolivia's defense minister, Luis Fernando Valle, the March maneuvers will be only the first of regularly organized joint military actions. The goal of these maneuvers, Valle said, was to allow Bolivia's officer corps to apply their U.S. military training on their own territory.

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That's the way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from South Africa, El Salvador and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the United States. Read our proposals on how to stop the U.S. government's support for the apartheid regime in South Africa, its intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, and the employers' offensive here. Read our ideas on what it will take to replace this system of exploitation, racism, and sexism with a system that's in the interest of working people.

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Pressures mount on new Philippines gov't

BY HARRY RING

With the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship, the spotlight is now on the government of Corazon Aquino and how it will deal with the huge problems of the Philippine society.

Recognizing the demand of the Filipino people for full democracy, Aquino announced on March 2 that she was scrapping the Marcos edict that permitted arrests without charges or trial.

She also moved to release several hundred political prisoners, including Jose Maria Sison, founding leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

According to the Task Force Detainees, not all the nation's political prisoners are included on the government list. And, the organization points out, more than 600 people are still disappeared. The Task Force Detainees has played a major role on behalf of political prisoners.

The new government has moved to reclaim the billions stolen by Marcos.

Jovito Salonga, head of a commission created for this purpose, said documents have been recovered confirming that Marcos and his gang hold overseas properties whose value may run as high as \$10 billion.

Another official said the 22 crates of loot, which U.S. forces obligingly flew out for the departing tyrant, contained some \$5

million in cash, plus jewelry, art objects, and other valuables.

Salonga said the commission's actions could include the takeover of business enterprises illegally acquired by the Marcos clique.

First 100 days

Meanwhile, Aquino outlined an agenda for her first 100 days.

She said she would address herself to the problem of the millions of landless peasants and jobless workers.

She pledged an end to corruption in government and declared she would dismantle the Marcos-created private monopolies in sugar and coconut distribution. Under this lucrative setup, growers are compelled to sell their crops to these monopolies, which dictate the prices they will pay. This superripoff has contributed to the nation's deep economic difficulties.

A member of one of the nation's biggest landowning families, Aquino said she would work to improve the plight of the peasants, beginning on her own large sugar estates.

She spoke in vague terms of conservation, greater efficiency, resettlement of the landless, and possible formation of farm cooperatives.

She said nothing of redistributing the vast holdings of landlords who accumulated their property by theft from the peasants now landless.



Freed Filipino political prisoner gets joyous welcome. Dissidents were often jailed without charges or trial and hundreds were "disappeared."

ants now landless.

With a majority of workers unemployed or underemployed, she spoke in terms of generating confidence among foreign and domestic investors, thereby creating new jobs. There was no mention of a crash pro-

gram by the government to aid the jobless.

For a capitalist politician, which Aquino is, the lack of a meaningful social program is not surprising. Moreover, even to the extent that she may deem it wise to meet some of the demands and expectations of the Filipino people, she is under enormous opposing pressure.

There is the pressure of her allies in government, as well as that of the presently regrouping Marcos forces.

Defense chief balks

Aquino and her aides have openly admitted difficulties with her defense minister, Juan Enrile, who held the same post under Marcos. Enrile opposed the release of those political prisoners deemed to be communist.

He also opposed Aquino's proposition to seek a cease-fire with the guerrilla force, the New People's Army. Aquino says she is ready to talk with the NPA, provided they first lay down their arms. Enrile stands opposed.

And associated with Enrile in the cabinet is Gen. Fidel Ramos, also a last-minute defector from the Marcos camp. Ramos' main concern is getting the army in fight-

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S. Africa Blacks face more repression as rulers promise end of 'emergency'

BY FRED FELDMAN

South African President Pieter Botha told a special session of parliament March 4 that his government would soon lift the state of emergency imposed on 36 districts last July 21. He added that new repressive legislation would be adopted against anti-apartheid protests.

Plans have already been announced to increase the size of the police force from about 50,000 to 87,000.

More than 7,000 anti-apartheid protesters were arrested under the emergency decree. There was no reported indication that those still in jail would be released, that the occupation of Black townships would end, or that the measure granting troops and cops nationwide immunity from prosecution or other court action would be lifted.

Soon after Botha spoke, police announced the killing of two Blacks. The day before, the cops boasted of ambushing and killing seven Blacks. The police claimed the seven were guerrilla fighters supporting the African National Congress, the outlawed liberation organization that has massive popular support in South Africa.

Like Botha's recent promises to reform the apartheid system, the promise to end the emergency is aimed in part at quieting international opposition to the regime and easing the pressure on capitalist governments and corporations to break ties with apartheid.

The White House praised Botha's announcement, which came two weeks after international bankers agreed, in effect, to reschedule South Africa's foreign debt.

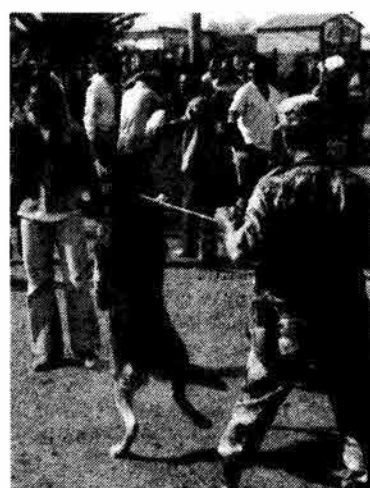
The bankers rejected a February 19 call by three anti-apartheid figures — Bishop Desmond Tutu, Rev. Allan Boesak, and Rev. Beyers Naude — who demanded that the banks refuse to reschedule the debt. The three also called for the seizure of South African assets abroad as a way to increase the pressure on the apartheid regime.

Botha said the regime could now consider lifting the state of emergency since the

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Apartheid regime says it will end state of emergency, but expand police force to 87,000 and give cops more powers. Above, police attack 1980 protest.



Pennsylvania oil workers hit company attack on union

BY HALKET ALLEN AND STEVE BRIDE

MARCUS HOOK, Pa. — More than 175 workers belonging to Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 8-234 held a demonstration and rally at the Sohio Oil refinery February 28. It was called to protest this oil giant's attempt to impose a contract that would reorganize the work force to combine jobs, undermine seniority rights, and reduce the work force to dangerous levels. The company also wants to remove the right to strike and a no-layoff clause from the contract.

The demonstrators marched up the sidewalk in front of the refinery to a parking lot, waving picket signs and getting support from passing vehicles. Some of these signs read, "Fewer refinery workers = fire, explosions, and death." Another one was "Standard Oil — union-busters." Another, "Together we can win against corporate greed." And last, "I'm walkin', yes, indeed, I'm walkin'" with musical notes from the old Fats Domino tune. Inside, other maintenance workers drove near the gate, holding up picket signs and honking their horns and giving the victory sign in solidarity with the demonstration.

There were also workers marching from Sun Oil, OCAW Local 8-901, Texaco Refinery OCAW members, and a garment worker from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

One refinery operator, John Lamplugh,

who explained the need for solidarity, said, "The P-9 meatpackers' strike is nationwide. It's as much our problem as it's theirs."

Local 8-234 had sent a telegram opposing the National Guard being used against the Hormel strikers, collected more than \$800 at gate collections, and also adopted a P-9 family.

The rally was held at the Sohio parking lot and speakers spoke from the back of a pickup truck. Sohio TV spy cameras mounted on poles followed the proceedings. Local President Wayne Slivenski said, "This is a show of solidarity. It's to show the company that we know we're together."

Terry Ross, the local vice-president, stated, "With this rally we want to show this company that the membership, both operators and maintenance, are united against what they're trying to do to us. We have a contract that this company wants to cut to the core. They want to implement a five-crew concept without negotiating. This means job combination, eventual layoffs, and it cuts across seniority rights. They don't even want to bargain over these things."

The rally ended with cheering and chants. Sohio announced two days after the rally that it was postponing implementing the five-crew concept.

Halket Allen is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-234.

New from Pathfinder: pamphlet on fight for land in South Africa

"For centuries land has been at the center of the struggle between South Africa's white rulers and its subjugated Black majority."

A new pamphlet from Pathfinder Press, *Apartheid's Great Land Theft: The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa*, tells the story of this struggle.

The author is Ernest Harsch, managing editor of the socialist newsmagazine *Intercontinental Press*. Harsch has written extensively on Africa, which he visited in 1978, and is active in the U.S. anti-apartheid movement.

The pamphlet includes two articles that first appeared in *Intercontinental Press* last December, as well as a brief introduction by Pathfinder Press editor Steve Clark.

"Even those individuals who are acquainted with the truth about the apartheid system often know little about the conditions in those sections of the oppressed Black population consigned to miserable poverty in the rural Bantustans" or about those being driven from the land they work in the 87 percent of South African territory reserved for "whites only," Clark says in his introduction. "This pamphlet is aimed at helping to fill this gap."

In doing so, Clark points out, it is a useful tool "to help build a powerful movement demanding an end to all U.S. economic, political, military, cultural, and sporting ties with the South African regime."

Apartheid's Great Land Theft will be available soon at the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you (see directory on page 16) or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. It costs \$1.25 plus \$.75 for postage and handling.

Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Women join battle in Austin

Support group helps strikers and families 'hang tough'

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

AUSTIN, Minn. — Well before United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 was forced out on strike by the Geo. A. Hormel Co., women relatives and friends of these unionists began to organize themselves. After the company slashed wages 23 percent in October 1984, they formed the United Support Group.

Jan Butts, president of the group, explained that the organization had an important role from the very beginning of the fight against Hormel. At the end of 1984, she said, "people were facing hardships. If you could form a strong body, it would relieve some of the home pressure."

The first activity of the United Support Group was informational picketing at the plant to protest the wage cuts. "There were things the union members weren't allowed to do," Butts continued. "Things that were legal for the support group to do."

In January they organized a bus to the 1985 Hormel stockholders' meeting in Atlanta. They also printed up "P-9 Proud" signs, bumper stickers, caps, and buttons. In March 1985 the support group held a solidarity rally of more than 1,000 people.

Ever since the strike started in August 1985, the support group's activities have expanded. The food shelf, which used to fit in a closet, now must serve over 800 striking families. At Christmas, the women organized "Santa's workshop" to provide toys for strikers' children. Volunteers made 350 teddy bears from old fur coats and more than 500 wooden toys.

As the struggle has intensified, the pressure has grown, and the support group has become more important. "The more you take part," Butts said, "the better you can handle it [the pressure]." She pointed out that many wives have never been in unions. They don't know much about them or about strikes. "But once you get in the support group," she continued, "you start getting the same commitment."

Asked about the impact of involvement in the strike on the women, Butts explained, "Women are now coming to meetings and speaking out who never thought they had the capability. They are standing up for what they really believe."

Recently the United Support Group has been expanded to include all strike supporters. The nightly meetings help keep supporters and strikers informed.

Although the majority of the strikers are men, there are also union members who are women. Many of these women are active in the strike. One such woman is Vivian Iverson, who started working for Hormel in 1948. When she hired on, Iverson explained, her wages doubled from the \$27 a week she had been making as a bookkeeper.

Hormel, she said, always hired women. But "there were strictly female jobs and male jobs, and men made more [money]."

In 1952 Iverson went on maternity leave. The contract, she explained, required women to quit work when they were seven months pregnant. They received neither pay nor unemployment benefits.

The company covered only hospital costs.

Although her job was "guaranteed," Iverson said, she did not return to work for 10 years. She had been laid off. Because of the strict division between "female jobs and male jobs," the company hired men while she and other women remained on lay-off.

Later contracts didn't force women onto maternity leave at a set time. Women could take pregnancy leave as advised by their doctor and be guaranteed their jobs back. The contract Hormel is now proposing would eliminate all maternity benefits.

Women have always been active in the union. Before the strike, Iverson, for example, had been a grievance person. Since the strike, she has been active on security, picket duty, and in the kitchen. She also went on P-9's roving pickets to Hormel's plant in Fremont, Nebraska. The wage cuts and strike, Iverson said, made herself and other women "fighting mad."

Most P-9 members, she continued, have never been through a strike. "It's scary," she said. Without the support of the spouses, many would have been forced to go back in. While some families have broken up as a result of the strike, Iverson said, it has brought her and her husband closer. "He's a union member, too, but

now he understands what my union and my contract are all about."

JoAnn Bailey worked at the plant on the hog kill for a year before the strike. Describing working conditions, Bailey said it took the women in her department five minutes of their 15 minute break just to get to the one toilet in their locker room.

The union, Bailey said, is fighting against these working conditions. They are fighting for "a safe place to work."

The union is fighting against elimination of maternity benefits, which, she said, amounts to the company saying, "If you want a family, don't come here."

Bailey helped to establish P-9's roving picket lines in Fremont. She has spent over four weeks on the road helping win support there for the strike. "I have to be involved," Bailey said. "There aren't that many women who could go out of town, because they have younger kids. Mine are 14 and 11 so it's easier for me to go."

Bailey, like Butts and Iverson, believes organizing the spouses has helped to strengthen the strike. Some spouses, she said, "support the union so much they want to join." But others, while supporting the strike, are still "jealous" of the time the strikers spend at the union hall or on the road. "They want equal time," she said.



Militant/Tom Jaax

Women at support meeting. They play an important role in strike.

"Hormel is trying to pull people apart," she continued. "Their goal is to bust the union; starve us out; freeze us out; break us up." But the support groups, she said, help the strikers and their families "hang tough."

All the women involved in the strike have come to appreciate the need for the unions to organize women. "I wish other unions would get busy now and organize women," Jan Butts said. "It would strengthen the unions throughout the country. You'll find resources you never thought you had."

'Adopt A Family' program aids strike

BY TOM JAAX

AUSTIN, Minn. — United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 has inspired thousands of working people through its determined struggle to win a decent contract from Hormel. One measure of this inspiration is the success of the local's "Adopt A P-9 Family" program. The program, in less than three months, has received contributions from more than 850 unions and individuals.

Local unions send contributions, Rodney Rud, head of the program, told this correspondent, because they see a victory in Austin as their victory. "What is echoed in each letter from locals across the country," Rud said, "is that the money is to help keep the struggle going."

In the six months that they have been on strike, members of Local P-9 have had no income other than \$40 per week in strike benefits. Consequently, many are facing evictions from their homes and apartments, threats of utilities being shut off, and repossessions. The adopt a family program, which makes from \$100 to \$600 per month available, is therefore vital to the strike.

The program is an integral part of an entire strike support network organized by the local. The network includes a food shelf, clothing supplies, and an emergency and hardship fund, all of which also receive contributions.

What makes the adopt a family program unique is the direct contact established between the strikers and other unions. "P-9 families who have been adopted," Rud explained, "correspond with their union

brothers and sisters. As a result of this direct union to P-9 family tie," he continued, "unions have sent in additional donations, requesting to readopt their P-9 family for another month."

All families who have been adopted send a thank-you letter to their sponsor. Some families also send news clippings and other information to their sponsors to keep them informed about developments in the struggle.

The idea for the program, Rud explained, was brought to the local's attention by Ray Rogers, head of Corporate Campaign, Inc., last October. The first adoptions arrived in mid-December.

"The initial idea," Rud said, "was that every member of P-9 would be adopted for three months. Since there wasn't enough money for that," Rud continued, "a system was established to help first those who were in need most. We wanted to help those who, because of financial pressure, would be forced to cross the picket line."

To determine the neediest, Rud explained, a committee of three men and three women was established. They review applications for the fund each Saturday. Not everyone who applies, Rud continued, is adopted. But their application will be reviewed the next week.

Some P-9 members who understand that the program's goal is to fortify those under the most pressure, Rud said, "applied at

first, [but] have not reapplied, since they see the need to help other P-9 members first." However, Rud continued, "there are some older members who think that everyone in the union should have a share" regardless of need.

"It is still a goal to get everyone in the whole union adopted," Rud said. He is confident that this will happen as support for the strike grows. He explained that P-9 teams have traveled from coast to coast speaking before union meetings and rallies. "After each speaking tour, more money is coming in, with unions wanting to adopt a P-9 family." The result of this growing solidarity is that between 550 and 600 families are currently adopted.

As part of its campaign to weaken the strike, UFCW International President William Wynn has attacked the program. Rud explained that "Wynn has accused P-9 of not giving the money from the program to the families. Wynn says that it's going to Ray Rogers' Corporate Campaign. This is one of the reasons we have the adopted families correspond with their sponsors and why we keep careful records."

As with other organizing skills that the Austin strikers have learned, they look forward to sharing them with other fighters. Rud explained that the strikers offered to help UFCW Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa, which has been locked out by Hormel, start a program.

Hormel strikers win support

Continued from front page

drawn from Austin February 21, union members have been discussing when to resume mass picketing at the plant to stop the company from using scabs. There are currently 900 scabs in the plant, but production remains at only 20 percent of normal.

Many strikers and supporters at the meeting talked about the need to shut down the plant again. "We're not talking about if, but when, to take the company down," said one striker.

A woman who is active in the support group was cheered when she said, "We've shut it down before. We can't be controlled by Hormel through the newspaper [or] the police."

The retirees from the local are continuing to organize the Hormel boycott in this one-company town. One small store owner said he wouldn't order any more Hormel products after he sold out his stock. The retirees took up a collection among themselves, bought \$300 worth of food, and donated it to the strike kitchen.

Every day retirees stand outside the plant

as the scabs enter with signs that read, "Scab of the day" or "Traitor."

Support in Austin and nationally is an important antidote to the continual pressure on the strikers from the company, the big-business press, and the UFCW International.

Articles have appeared in the press here reporting that the UFCW officials may withdraw the sanction from the strike, cutting off the \$40-a-week benefits the strikers now receive.

While the UFCW International has taken no action, it continues to try to undermine the struggle. The Minneapolis *Star Tribune* quotes a UFCW source as saying, "[UFCW President William] Wynn wants to see more grassroots demands for International action other than a few isolated phone calls."

Meanwhile, the striking local won a victory in the court. Judge Bruce Stone was forced to admit that the amended injunction limiting to six the number of people allowed on public streets near the plant was unconstitutional. He announced that he will nullify the amendment on March 7.

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Detroit: 500 rally for Hormel strikers

BY KATE KAKU

DETROIT — Under a "Support P-9 — Stop Union-busting" banner, 500 people rallied here March 1 in support of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 on strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota.

Bob King, president of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 600 at the Ford Rouge Complex, hosted the rally at the local's hall.

King opened the program by recognizing contingents of unionists from more than 15 local unions in the area. The unionists, many in their union jackets and hats, stood up to acknowledge the cheers.

In addition to the Detroit area unions, a large group of unionists came from Toledo, Ohio, for the rally. They were led by members of UAW Local 14 from AP Parts.

In 1984 these workers had been forced out on strike for nearly a year. A delegation from Local 14 had traveled to Austin in February for a solidarity rally. The local's president, Oscar Bunch, described for the crowd their visit with the strikers. He noted that the courts were being used against these strikers just like they had been used against the AP Parts strikers.

Maria Rosario Morono, a cannery worker and member of striking Teamsters Local 912 from Watsonville, California, also addressed the rally. Speaking in Spanish, Morono explained that after six months on strike the cannery workers were determined to continue their fight for a decent contract. She offered the support and solidarity of the cannery strikers to the fighters against Hormel.

The featured speaker at the rally was P-9



Militant/Adrienne Kaplan
Michigan auto workers at Austin solidarity rally in February. Recent Detroit rally brought together auto workers and other unionists in area to show further support for striking meatpackers.

President Jim Guyette. He described the history of concessions wrung from the local by Hormel.

"Our fight," Guyette said, "is for dignity in the workplace. We're fighting for our community, for our kids' future."

Describing working conditions, he said, "In some parts of the plant workers have to raise their hands to go to the bathroom."

The speedup in the plant has taken a massive human toll. Before the strike, he explained, the injury rate had gone up to over 200 injuries per 100 workers.

Although the local has been attacked publicly by officials from the UFCW International union, Guyette said, "Our fight is not with the International union but with

the company and the banks behind it."

Hormel is one of the most profitable companies in the meatpacking industry. It is using its profits, Guyette continued, "to buy two plants in South Africa."

Guyette appealed for help from the crowd. He asked for their support in the boycott of Hormel products. He called on local unions and other organizations to participate in the "Adopt A P-9 Family" program to prevent the company from starving the strikers out.

In closing, Guyette voiced the admiration many workers feel toward the over 500 members of UFCW Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa. These workers honored P-9's roving picket lines. In violation of their contract, Hormel fired them. After P-9 removed the picket line and the workers demanded their jobs back, Hormel locked them out. This

action by these workers, Guyette said, was an example of "unionism and solidarity."

Bill Cook, a member of Ottumwa UFCW Local 431 who has been fired and locked out, appealed for support for the Ottumwa workers. He explained that they receive no strike benefits. And they have been refused unemployment compensation and food stamps.

A member of UFCW Local 26 in Detroit also spoke at the rally. He told the crowd he had been warned by union officials not to come to this "communist rally," as they called it. But having heard the truth about the struggle of Local P-9, he said, he was glad he decided to participate.

Don Douglas, president of UAW Local 594 from the GM Truck and Coach plant in Pontiac, and Jim Coakley, president of UAW Local 1200 from the General Dynamics tank plant near Detroit, also spoke.

They explained that their locals are adopting a P-9 family for the duration of the strike.

A Plumbers and Steamfitters local from Toledo, Ohio, also announced it was adopting a family.

Representatives of UAW locals 735 and 1700 as well as Bakers Local 236 presented the strikers with collections that had been taken at the plant gates. These collections ranged between \$100 and \$500 each.

United Steelworkers Local 1299 at Great Lakes donated \$100 to P-9.

The Tool and Die Unit of UAW Local 600 gave a \$1,000 donation, as did the Detroit Federation of Teachers.

UAW Local 22 donated \$2,000. A collection from those present at the rally netted another \$1,700 for the strikers.

Music and food rounded off the evening. Many people spoke with the strikers and bought "P-9 proud" hats and buttons.

Support grows in Seattle

BY CHRIS HORNER

SEATTLE — Striking Minnesota meatpackers from United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 have won broad support for their struggle from working people in the Puget Sound area.

A team of strikers and nine supporters have been on tour here since January 28. The team included John "Skinny" Weis, from the local's executive board, Merle Krueger, a member of the local, and Madeline Krueger, a strike supporter.

Since they arrived in the area, the strikers and supporters have spoken before 13 local union meetings and two county central labor councils.

Among the local meetings they addressed were eight membership meetings in International Association of Machinists District 751. This district organizes the 25,000 production workers at the Boeing plants here. About 1,000 Boeing workers heard the meatpackers explain their strike. They donated \$1,600 in collections at these meetings.

On February 20 some 100 members of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 19 in Seattle gave the strikers a warm reception. After hearing about the strike, these workers col-

lected \$700 on the spot. The longshoremen made it clear that this was only an initial contribution.

The strikers were able to address the King County Central Labor Council in Seattle during their first week here. They traveled to Bellingham February 19 to address the Whatcom County Central Labor Council as well.

The team was interviewed by the *Washington State Grange News*, the principal farm newspaper in the state. They were also interviewed by IAM District 751's newspaper, the *Aeromechanic*.

Unfortunately, the Northwest Regional Office of the UFCW publicly attacked the strikers' solidarity work. The February 21 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported that Mike Young, assistant regional director of the union, was "urging union locals in the Puget Sound area to reject fundraising efforts mounted here by the striking Minnesota UFCW local."

Nevertheless, the Washington State Labor Council and the King County Labor Council refused to join the UFCW International in attacking the strike. They voted that it is up to each local to decide on what aid to give P-9.

Minn. socialist visits can strikers

BY BILL ARTH

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Geoff Mirelowitz, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Minnesota, and a team of campaign supporters visited strikers at the American Can Co. here February 27. The strikers are members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2127. Mirelowitz visited the picket line to express the campaign's support for the workers' struggle against the bosses.

One of the first strikers Mirelowitz met knew the socialist campaign. "I voted for the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president," he told Mirelowitz. Local 2127, he explained, was forced out on strike when the company demanded a 15 percent wage cut and the elimination of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

The socialist candidate talked with the strikers about the current battle by United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota. The steelworkers knew about that strike. One picket reported that

before the strike, the local had organized a plant-gate collection for the striking meatpackers. The collection netted over \$900 from 223 union members.

This solidarity continued after Local 2127 went on strike. American Can, he explained, produces cans for Spam and other Hormel products. When the strike began, the union members organized mass picketing at the warehouse to try to prevent the company from shipping out stockpiled cans. The company, he said, immediately accused the strikers of violence and got a court injunction against mass picketing. The cans were then shipped out.

The strikers invited the campaign team into a union trailer where pickets take turns warming up. There the discussion turned to the role of the government, the Democratic and Republican parties, and the mass media in backing the bosses every time there is a strike.

As Mirelowitz left, he pledged to use his campaign to build support for the striking steelworkers.

N. Y. solidarity rally called

BY MIKE SHUR

NEW YORK — A labor rally to support United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 will take place here March 14.

The rally will be held at the United Auto Workers District 65 hall, 13 Astor Place, Manhattan, at 7:30 p.m. Jim Guyette, president of the striking local, will be the keynote speaker. A representative of UFCW Local 431 will also be speaking.

The rally is sponsored by the New York Metropolitan Labor Committee to Support Local P-9.

The committee sponsored a delegation of more than 30 unionists who participated in the February 15 strike solidarity rally in Austin, Minnesota. The delegation was led by Henry Nicholas, president of the National Hospital and Health Care Workers Union, and Jan Pierce, national vice-president of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) from District 1.

It included representatives from several CWA and Teamster locals, as well as rep-

resentatives from the Professional Employees Federation, National Association of Broadcast and Entertainment Technicians, Amalgamated Transportation Union, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) District Council 1707. Rank-and-file members from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, International Union of Electronic Workers, and AFSCME District Council 37 were also part of the delegation.

Leading up to the rally, the committee is planning other support activities. These include a March 6 press conference and a speaking tour by Jim Guyette before area unions.

A number of New York-area unions have already adopted 100 striking families.

Five CWA locals are organizing plant-gate collections for P-9's hardship fund. Paid ads in a number of New York newspapers to answer the lies and slanders about the strike are also being planned.

The Hormel strike at a glance

The 1,500 members of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-9 were forced out on strike by the Geo. A. Hormel meatpacking company on Aug. 17, 1985. They are workers at the company's Austin, Minnesota, operation.

More than a year earlier, Hormel had unilaterally slashed wages from \$10.69 to \$8.25 an hour. They were later raised to \$9.25. When the union's contract expired August 17, the company refused to return wages to their former level.

Hormel also demanded additional concessions, including gutting the seniority and grievance systems and instituting a two-tier wage system. The company has demanded the right to punish workers injured on the job. The injury rate per year at the Austin plant is 202 injuries for every 100 workers. Hormel is also demanding contractual restrictions on workers' democratic and political rights.

In the course of the strike, Local P-9 has had to face attacks by the company, courts, and governor.

On Dec. 24, 1985, the courts issued an injunction limiting strike activity at the plant.

On January 21, Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich of the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party sent in the National Guard to herd scabs for Hormel. Public outrage forced Perpich to pull the Guard back from the plant on January 29. The strikers were then able to close the plant again.

On February 3 Perpich again assigned the Guard to herd strikebreakers. Although there are about 900 scabs in the plant, production is only at about 10 percent of normal.

The striking local sent out roving pickets to other Hormel plants. On January 28 the company fired over 500 workers at Hormel plants in Ottumwa, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska, for refusing to cross P-9's picket lines.

On February 22, P-9 removed their pickets from the Ottumwa plant. The workers from that plant then marched en masse to demand their jobs. The company refused, locking out the workers.

Israeli troops terrorize Lebanese villages

BY FRED FELDMAN

The Israeli army launched a massive invasion of southern Lebanon February 17, moving well beyond the 3 to 12 mile wide strip of Lebanese territory held by Israeli forces as a "security zone." The pretext was a search for two Israeli soldiers who were reportedly captured in the "security zone" by one of the many Lebanese groups demanding complete Israeli withdrawal from their country.

The current invasion typifies the racist terrorism and expansionism that has characterized the state of Israel from its founding in 1948. Like the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, which killed and wounded more than 50,000 civilians, the current Israeli invasion is supported by the United States government. Washington has provided the Israeli rulers with vast amounts of modern weapons and economic aid.

Israeli troops, tanks, and helicopter gunships had swept through dozens of villages by February 19. Their entire male population was rounded up for interrogation.

Ali Dakik, a resident of Haris, said, "After writing down our names, one or two at a time would be called in for questioning. We could hear screams and sometimes they never came back."

"They blindfolded 21 or 22 men, tied their hands behind their backs with telephone wires, and drove them away in trucks."

The Israeli troops were accompanied by members of the South Lebanon Army, an ultrarightist group backed by the Israeli government. According to the March 1 *Washington Post*, villagers said "that SLA militiamen used broken chairs, hot iron utensils, cigarette butts, rope and electrical wires to injure them during questioning."

More than 300 people are believed to have been kidnapped by the invaders. Hundreds of men fled villages, seeking to avoid the torturers and kidnappers.

The area of Lebanon invaded by Israel has been patrolled by a United Nations peacekeeping force since 1978. But it has not defended Lebanon's sovereignty. In one instance, reported in the February 20 *Washington Post*, 200 members of the Amal militia (one of the main groups based on the Shiite Muslim population of Lebanon) "entered an area the Israeli army was searching and demanded that they leave. The Israelis refused and the U.N. forces removed the Amal militiamen while the search continued."

The Lebanese people are putting up stiff resistance to the invaders, and the Israeli forces have responded by strafing and shelling villages.

On February 22, the Israeli military announced that the invasion force had pulled back. Israeli forces continue to occupy the "security zone" in Lebanon.

Despite the Israeli raid, the Lebanese people continue to fight Israel's occupation

of the "security zone." On February 26, an Israeli soldier was killed and four others wounded in a clash with Lebanese resistance fighters inside the occupied area.

On the following day, Israeli artillery shelled villages beyond the occupied area in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli rulers are seeking to end all resistance to their occupation of the "security zone" and extend their domination over a wider area of southern Lebanon. They also hope to terrorize the majority of the Lebanese people into dropping their opposition to ultrarightist President Amin Gemayel, who was imposed on Lebanon by the Israeli and U.S. rulers after the 1982 invasion.

The latest drive against Lebanon gives the lie to the imperialist claims that Palestinian resistance in Lebanon and elsewhere is the cause of Israeli attacks. The source of Tel Aviv's aggression is Israeli imperialism's need to consolidate its conquests and expand its sphere of influence.

The struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli rulers' occupation of their land, like the resistance of the Lebanese people, is an obstacle to Israeli conquest, not a cause of it.



Lebanese village of Quazzaye was victim of earlier Israeli raid. Over past decade, Israeli aggression has brought death and devastation to tens of thousands in Lebanon.

Police revolt shakes Egypt regime

BY GEORGE KAPLAN

After several days of fighting, the Egyptian government of President Hosni Mubarak claims to have crushed an uprising spearheaded by 10,000 drafted paramilitary police. The revolt, which centered in suburbs of the capital city of Cairo, sparked protests in many parts of the country.

The heavy fighting began February 25 when thousands of draftees stormed four luxury hotels in the suburb of Giza, where the Great Pyramids and a tourist complex are located. Two hotels and several nightclubs were destroyed.

When the revolt began, the young draftees were joined by other youths reportedly protesting price increases.

In the suburb of Maadi, the paramilitary police were reported to have killed some of their officers.

Protesters stormed the Tura prison, south of Cairo, where many political prisoners are held. Most were liberated.

At least 36 persons were reported killed, and 3,000 police and 700 civilians arrested.

"This is terribly serious; it's been building for some time," the *New York Times* quoted a diplomat as saying. "It's not just ... the police versus the government. It's the whole deprived group against the whole government."

According to the February 27 *Washington Post*, "The crisis is the worst that Pres-

ident Hosni Mubarak has faced since he took office after the assassination of former president Anwar Sadat by Moslem extremist soldiers in 1981."

The Mubarak regime maintains a force of 500,000 paramilitary police to guard government buildings, suppress unauthorized demonstrations, and perform other repressive functions. About 300,000 are draftees, "mostly illiterate youths from farms and villages," according to the March 1 *New York Times*.

The draftees are paid \$4 a month, provided with a single uniform during their tour of duty, and housed in squalid camps with little running water or electricity. "The officers treat them like animals," one Western diplomat conceded.

Several of the camps are located near Giza, where the conscripts can contrast their poverty and the declining living standards of Egypt's working people to the luxuries available to tourists.

The revolt began when officers told the conscripts that their tours of duty would be extended by one year.

For several days, Cairo — a city of 5 million with millions more in its suburbs — was under a 24-hour curfew imposed by the government. A dusk-to-dawn curfew began March 1. Schools and universities were shut down and were not scheduled to reopen until March 7.

On February 28 Mubarak dismissed Interior Minister Ahmed Rushdi, who com-

manded the paramilitary police, and replaced him with Zaki Badr. Badr is governor of Assiut Province, where police also mutinied.

Mubarak faces growing opposition because of his austerity measures against Egyptian workers and farmers, his enforcement of the 1979 treaty that established diplomatic relations with Israel and dealt a blow to the Palestinian liberation struggle, and his subservience to Washington.

Washington is scheduled to send \$1.3 billion in military hardware to Mubarak this year. Mubarak is expected to help Washington police North Africa and the Middle East.

To assure repayment of the government's growing debts to arms merchants and bankers, Washington is pressing Mubarak to sharply cut back on subsidies that limit the prices of basic necessities.

Egypt's economy is in difficulty, with a reduction of at least \$2 billion expected in annual revenue from tourism, oil, and Suez Canal tolls.

Protest has been on the rise. When U.S. forces hijacked an Egyptian airliner last October, "the most violent clashes between students and police here since the turbulent final years of Anwar Sadat's rule" took place, the *Washington Post* reported.

Recently student protests broke out again when Suleiman Khater, a police draftee convicted of killing seven Israelis in the Sinai Peninsula, was found hanged in his prison cell.

Vietnam: articles on POWs untrue

Vietnam's foreign ministry has strongly denied reports in the Western press that Vietnam acknowledged that some U.S. prisoners of war may still be alive in that country.

A February 15 Agence France-Presse report stated that following discussions with visiting U.S. Congressmen, Vice Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son had told a press conference that some U.S. prisoners may still be alive in his country. This report was widely quoted in the U.S. media.

However, the Press and Information Department of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry stated that Son had not held a press conference after his meetings with U.S. officials and that during those meetings no discussion of prisoners of war had taken place.

Vietnam has repeatedly stated that it is holding no U.S. POWs. U.S. officials recently turned over to Vietnam information about two Americans still possibly in Vietnam, but these reports were investigated by the Vietnamese authorities and were found to be untrue.

'IP' discusses open letters on Nicaragua

The upcoming March 24 *Intercontinental Press* reprints as documents two open letters on Nicaragua. Among the signers of both letters are activists from the civil rights group in Czechoslovakia known as Charter 77.

Accompanying the documents is an article by Doug Jenness taking issue with some of the points they raise.

While containing criticisms of U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, both letters have serious flaws that undermine the impact of their protest, Jenness notes. One falsely equates U.S. intervention against Nicaragua with Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

And without taking into account the scope of the U.S.-backed mercenary war against Nicaragua, the other blasts the Sandinistas' declaration of a state of emergency and censorship of Radio Católica. It claims this could lead to a "bureaucratic dictatorship" in Nicaragua and smears Cuba in a similar vein. Such attacks are especially shame-

ful, Jenness states, since some of the signers consider themselves revolutionary socialists.

The same *IP* includes an interview with Sandinista leader Tomás Borge discussing church-state relations in Nicaragua and the reasons for the moves against Radio Católica.

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Fourth Int'l hails Haitian victory

The following statement was adopted March 2, 1986, by the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International. The Fourth International is a worldwide Marxist organization, comprising parties in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania.

The statement welcomes the victory of the people of Haiti last month over the hated Duvalier dictatorship. For nearly three decades, that tyrannical regime had served the interests of U.S. imperialism and of a tiny handful of wealthy Haitian families. The social and economic legacy of this imperialist oppression and brutal dictatorship has left Haiti the country with the lowest living standards, worst medical care, most malnutrition, and lowest literacy in the Americas.

Imperialist domination has also burdened Haiti with a large foreign debt, a social malady inflicted by world capitalism on countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, Africa, and Asia. While the vast majority of Haitians go without food, medical care, and other of the most elementary social needs, a growing portion of the wealth produced by their labor is siphoned into the vaults of imperialist banks.

The Haitian people are today determined to use the democratic rights that they have been fighting for so long, and at such a heavy price, in order to organize and struggle to improve their living standards and social conditions. Working people around the world, above all in the United States and other imperialist countries, can add our voices to the just demands of the Haitian people by calling for an immediate cancellation of Haiti's foreign debt and the send-

ing of massive food and medical aid to the Haitian people, with no strings attached.

Solidarity with the Haitian people!

The Fourth International hails the courageous people of Haiti, who, through their mobilizations over the last months of 1985 and the first months of 1986, brought down the hated dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier and its gang of murderers, the Tontons Macoutes. The toppling of this U.S.-backed dictatorship — the second oldest in the Americas — opens for the first time in many decades the opportunity to organize open political and trade union activity by the oppressed and exploited working people of Haiti.

The new military-civilian junta in Haiti, largely handpicked by Duvalier from among his cronies just hours before his flight, is now trying to deprive the Haitian people of this hard-won opening for democratic political organization and activity.

We stand beside the Haitian workers and peasants in their demands that the torturers and murderers of the Duvalier tyranny be brought to justice and punished; that all political exiles be allowed to return to Haiti immediately; and that an end be put to all police and army attacks on popular demonstrations and meetings.

The massive U.S. military presence in the Caribbean looms as a danger to the gains that the Haitian people have conquered and are now fighting to consolidate and extend.

We demand:
No U.S. military intervention in Haiti!
No imperialist military pressure on Haiti!
Imperialist forces out of Haiti!

Pressures mount on Aquino gov't

Continued from Page 3

ing trim to better attack the insurgents.

Another factor that should not be overlooked in the present situation is the fact that although Marcos is in Hawaii, much of his political and military machine in the Philippines remains intact.

According to one news report, Marcos phoned members of his machine from Honolulu urging them to hang tough.

Some of them are doing that.

On March 4, in the capital of Ilocos Norte, Marcos' home province, a public rally was put together protesting the removal of local officials loyal to the exruler.

In a related development, sources at military headquarters in Manila said that four brigadier generals, loyal to Marcos, have taken refuge in Ilocos Norte and are beginning to assemble troops there.

'Danger not past'

Indeed, on March 2, Cardinal Jaime Sin, archbishop of Manila, was moved to warn

against "premature euphoria," declaring, "There are those who want to slide back to the old and corrupt ways. There are those who plan to regroup the forces of dictatorship."

"The danger is not yet past," he said. "We must continue to watch, work, and pray."

Meanwhile, so far, not one of the Marcos criminals who remained in the Philippines has been arrested.

Rather, Aquino has hoped to resolve the problem of the remaining Marcos machine by bypassing it. She has said the local elections scheduled for May will not be held, and is, instead, ordering the removal of local Marcos officials.

She has given no indication of any intention to clear the way for the Filipino people to begin determining their own future.

She has apparently not even considered the idea of convening a broadly representative national assembly where grass-roots delegates could democratically hammer out a new constitution and chart a course for reorganizing the country.

Aquino's goal of "national unity" is a deceptive illusion. The conflict between rich and poor Filipinos cannot be resolved to the benefit of both. The basic problem demanding resolution is that a handful of wealthy wallow in shameless luxury at the expense of the mass of the people, 70 percent of whom live in poverty.

That deep contradiction has spurred a political radicalization in the Philippines that aims beyond an end to the dictatorship.

An example: On the island of Negros, home of 300,000 bitterly exploited sugar workers, a Catholic priest tells a U.S. reporter he is a communist. He estimates that so are 40 percent of the priests and 60 percent of the nuns in the area.

This is not unrelated to the fact that the average wage of a sugar worker is 60 cents a day and that 64 percent of the children in the area suffer malnutrition.

Another priest tells the reporter that in such a situation, "a moderate line isn't adequate." He favors armed struggle.

When the Filipino people smashed the Marcos tyranny, that was not the end of the story, it was only the beginning.



Street celebration in Haiti after downfall of hated dictator, Jean-Claude Duvalier

Haitians demand change

Continued from back page

who violated the human rights of Haitians for 28 years.

However, a shift became necessary after the Pierre blowup and after the people took to the streets.

Justice Minister Gourgue announced on official television February 27 that the government would prevent any officials "who are authors or coauthors of crimes committed during the Duvalier regime" from leaving the country.

He also said that "the former president will shortly be the object of an extradition demand presented in the name of the Haitian state."

A week earlier the government said it would seize all of Duvalier's belongings in Haiti and take legal steps to retrieve the vast holdings that Duvalier stole and invested in real estate and bank accounts abroad.

Estimates of Duvalier's personal fortune range from \$200 to \$500 million. Most of it is invested outside of Haiti.

While these modest steps by the regime are welcomed, the people are demanding the immediate dismissal of all Duvalier collaborators and radical changes. Demonstrations continue unabated.

The youths who led the rebellion against the old dictatorship are in the forefront of these protests. "It is not over yet," said Mohetier Cassius, an unemployed 17-year-old from Port-au-Prince. "There are still a lot of criminals in there to be judged. The people never forget."

Demonstrations have occurred in the southern cities of Les Cayes and Jacmel demanding the ouster of those who served under Duvalier. Army troops used tear gas to disperse crowds at a similar demonstration at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince.

Students are boycotting classes in Gonaïves. They vow to stay out until the junta sets a date for early elections.

Workers have barred those with links to the old regime from entering government office buildings. Workers in the private sector have done the same.

After a rebellion in the National Penitentiary March 4, the next day the government declared a general amnesty and released 237 prisoners. Many had been held without trial for many years.

The spirit of rebellion among the people of Haiti was reflected in the huge reception given to 24-year-old Jean Tatoun in Gonaïves. A Barbados radio broadcast reported that they came "to cheer and try to touch a secret hero of the rebellion that toppled three decades of dictatorial rule by the Duvalier dictatorship." The object of the

crowd's enthusiasm was Tatoun, who, like most Haitians, is illiterate. He and six companions waged an underground war against the Tontons Macoutes. In the process, he became one of the most hunted men in Haiti.

Tatoun stated that he is not happy with the new junta. "We want quick elections. We want freedom."

Since the fall of Duvalier, clandestine organizations and underground leaders have begun to surface and function openly.

In hopes of maintaining control over the political situation, the junta has retained Duvalier's old law that all Haitian exiles must secure an entry visa before returning to the country. This was used by the former dictatorship to keep out those exiles who were opposed to the regime.

Reporting from Port-au-Prince, Jacques Hasday in the Montreal daily *La Presse* wrote, "The new regime is retaining this visa, anxious to avoid the influx of certain oppositionists considered to be potentially destabilizing forces."

Few Haitian exiles have gotten back into Haiti, and those who have are questioned for hours by the police. The government keeps a close eye on them.

Meanwhile, on February 26 the U.S. State Department announced that it will continue its \$26.6 million in economic and military aid to the junta. This aid had been suspended by Washington in the last months of the Duvalier regime.

For nearly three decades the Duvalier dynasty received support from every Democratic and Republican administration. Washington provided "Baby Doc" Duvalier with the technical advisers to train his army and repressive forces. It sent arms, patrol boats, and helicopters to strengthen the regime's military apparatus.

Economic and military aid to the new junta in Haiti from the U.S. has the same purpose: the protection of the U.S. capitalist rulers' economic and political interests in Haiti.

A stable proimperialist regime in Haiti is what the U.S. government is after.

But the Haitian workers and peasants have stepped onto the stage of politics. They won't easily be turned back — by the current regime or its Washington backers.

The Committee Against Repression in Haiti is sponsoring an important demonstration in Washington, D.C., March 29. Its purpose is to solidarize with the Haitian people and to demand that the U.S. government keep its hands off Haiti.

Working people should join it.

For more information about the protest contact the Committee Against Repression in Haiti at (718) 434-3940.



Militant/Deb Shnookal
Jose Maria Sison, founding leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

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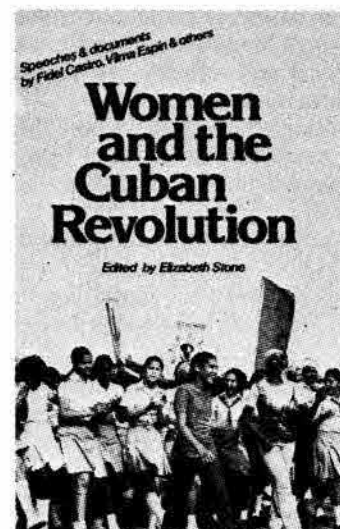
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Cosmetics, fashions, and the exploitation of women

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women by Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed. Pathfinder Press, New York, \$4.95, 138 pp. It is available from the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you (see directory on page 16) or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add \$.75 for postage and handling.

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

In 1954 the *Militant* published an article titled "Sagging Cosmetic Lines Try a Face Lift." The article exposed how cosmetic companies manipulate women's

BOOK REVIEW

fears and insecurities to make them buy these products.

This witty article was written by *Militant* editor Joseph Hansen under the pen name Jack Bustelo. It sparked a lively debate on the oppression of women, first in the pages of the *Militant* and later inside the Socialist Workers Party.

Parts of that discussion are reproduced in Pathfinder Press' newest book: *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*.

This discussion took place at the height of the cold war and anticommunist witch-hunt of the 1950s.

Large numbers of women had been incorporated into the work force during World War II. This had led to progressive changes in attitudes among men and women about women's role in society. The reactionary ideological campaign launched by the ruling class during the witch-hunt included an effort to roll back these attitudes. The image the rulers promoted of what women should be later came to be called "the feminine mystique." In this book, the reader will get a glimpse of the impact of this ideological campaign on the working class.

Timely contribution

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women is a timely contribution to the struggle for women's liberation. It gives supporters of women's rights a framework to help understand the rulers' current ideological and political offensive.

In the book's introduction, SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters looks at today's antiwoman offensive by the government and the employers. The goal of this offensive, she explains, is "to roll back, or at least slow down, some of the changes in consciousness about women's place in society."

These changes are the result of advances women made in the late 1960s and early '70s — in particular, the growing number of women in the work force. Especially important, Waters says, is women's entry, although in smaller numbers, into industrial jobs and the powerful industrial unions.

The aim of the current offensive, like the one in the '50s, is to get women to accept worse jobs, temporary jobs, part-time jobs, and jobs at lower wages — along with worse working conditions.

Because the gains women made in the '60s and '70s were so sweeping, the ruling-class offensive today has many sides.

Waters points to some of the forms it takes:

- attacks on affirmative action gains;
- restrictions on abortion rights; terrorist attacks on abortion clinics; and the constant propaganda that abortion is murder.
- the glorification of women's role as wife and



New book from Pathfinder Press gives supporters of women's rights a framework to help understand the rulers' current ideological and political offensive. It discusses how wealthy owners of cosmetics industry play on women's insecurities to sell products and discusses growing participation of women in labor force and other issues.

mother.

This offensive has had an impact on "even the most politically conscious women and men. That is why it is helpful to look back at the 1950s and learn from history. . . . It helps in understanding some of the pressures today and arms us to deal with them more consciously."

Cosmetics: a right or a compulsion?

This book, like the 1954 discussion, begins with Hansen's article on cosmetics. It is followed by some of the letters it provoked.

The exchange in the pages of the *Militant* led to the opening of a written discussion on these questions inside the Socialist Workers Party.

Many of the contributions argued that because using cosmetics is often necessary for working-class women to get and keep a job, the use of cosmetics is a woman's right and should be defended as such.

Longtime SWP leader Evelyn Reed, in a response titled "The Woman Question and the Marxist Method," pointed out that these two ideas are contradictory. To uphold the social compulsion to use cosmetics in the name of free choice and women's rights makes no sense, Reed said.

Rulers' beauty standards

Beauty standards set by the capitalist class are used to get women to internalize their oppression. Women, Reed wrote, "tend to view their beauty 'disfigurements' as the source of all their troubles. They become victims of inferiority complexes."

However, beauty has nothing to do with fashion, she asserted. It has everything to do with labor: "Humanity itself, together with the beauty of humanity, was produced in and through the labor process."

Working-class fighters reject capitalist standards of beauty as they reject the bosses' standards in every field. To do otherwise, Reed explained, is "to uphold capitalist ideology. To accept its ideology is to accept the capitalist system as a whole."

An example of how true this is can be seen in the letter from SWP member Marjorie McGowan. She wrote that capitalism had wrought a revolution "in all phases of life" in the 20th century. Examples of this, she claimed, were progressive changes in what is viewed as beautiful. "The long-stemmed American beauty . . . with shining hair,

clear eyes, [and] smooth skin . . . is no fiction but an American commonplace."

To leave no doubt which class leads this "revolution," McGowan explained that there is nothing beautiful about the "dumpy figures" and "ugly furniture" of the "working-class woman and her home."

McGowan thus accepted as her standard of beauty what Reed called "the female counterpart of the Nordic hero, of the female white supremacist."

'Opposition, not adaptation'

It is a short step from praising this ruling-class beauty standard to praising the capitalist system that perpetuates it. McGowan's hailing of the "revolution in all phases of life" that capitalism is supposedly producing shows how far she had already broken from Marxism.

"So long as capitalism prevails," Reed wrote, "we must abide by cosmetic and fashion decrees. . . . But this does not mean that we must accept these edicts and compulsions complacently, or without protest."

"The class struggle is a movement of opposition, not adaptation," Reed declared.

In his article "The Fetish of Cosmetics," Hansen looked at how the capitalist propagandists bestow on cosmetics magical powers to smooth out relations between men and women as the way to create a mass market for their products. Hansen's look at the advertising campaigns of the cosmetics giants is a witty exposé of these hustlers.

Capitalist propaganda machine

Part III of the book contains an exchange between Reed and McGowan on the evolution of human society and the origins of women's oppression. McGowan rejected the historical discoveries of materialists concerning the roots of women's second-class status.

Reed saw a connection between the discussion on cosmetics and fashions and the debate over the origins of women's oppression: "They both reveal that on the daily level and scientific level, we have become influenced by the bourgeois propaganda machine. . . . The time is at hand, therefore, for a fresh review of the Marxist method as it is concretely applied to this important woman question."

This book provides such a review.

West Virginians protest gov't attack on abortion

BY PAT BARKER

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — One hundred protesters gathered on the steps of the State Capitol here February 22 to rally against a House of Delegates vote to delete state Medicaid payments for abortions.

Members of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) were outraged when they learned of the legislature's use of a "backdoor maneuver" — using a budget amendment to prohibit state-financed abortions. This move is an attack on all women but hits working-class and Black women the hardest.

Upon hearing the news of the maneuver at their meeting February 20, NOW members became angered and were quick to realize that the right of access to legal abortions had been dealt a sharp blow by the Democratic and Republican party legislators. The membership readily agreed that this move demanded a visible emergency response to draw the attention and participation of women's rights supporters.

By activating a statewide phone tree, NOW was able to organize the rally in less than 24 hours. As participants rallied outside in the pouring rain, Senate and House budget conferees met inside to decide

whether to approve a compromise budget proposal that would reinstate Medicaid funding for abortions.

Funding has now been reinstated for the time being but will be up for a vote later in the month.

"Those behind this move are mean-spirited and cowardly," said Chris Hedges, president of West Virginia State NOW. "They couldn't tell all women that they can't have abortions, so they decided to

pick on the poor women.

"We need to let the conferees know that we don't want two standards of health care in this state," said delegate Bonnie Brown. "A backdoor maneuver like this can only lead to back alley abortions. We need to tell them that we won't stand for discrimination against the poor women of this state."

Kathy Peterson of the Charleston branch of the National Abortion Rights Action

League said, "I'm infuriated that poor women are being used as footballs in this debate."

The rally was opened to any participant who wanted to speak. Speakers from the crowd urged women's rights supporters to join the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., on March 9. Other NOW members distributed leaflets for the D.C. action, which is in support of abortion rights.

Boston socialist kicks off Congress campaign

BY BOB HILL

BOSTON — Jon Hillson, a textile worker who is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from the 8th District in Massachusetts, began his campaign February 20 by challenging the 10 Republican and Democratic contenders to join him in supporting a boycott of Hormel products called for by United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9.

The 8th District seat is currently held by Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill, who is retiring.

"Workers in this area can identify with

the Hormel workers' struggle," Hillson said. "Meatpackers at the Colonial Brands plant here in Boston face a plant closing after they took a concessions contract last year. Fishermen in New Bedford fought back against a union-busting effort. The Hormel strike is the fight of these and all other workers."

"While the U.S. rulers wage war on working people in this country," Hillson added, "they are also waging war against the Nicaraguan revolution." Hillson, who participated in the coffee harvest in Nicaragua in January, denounced all proposals to

fund the U.S.-backed *contra* (counterrevolutionary) terrorists. "I stand with the Nicaraguan government and people against Washington's dirty war. The Sandinista revolution shows how workers and farmers can take political power and reverse the priorities of a system that puts Hormel profits above workers' health and living standards."

Hillson also called for support to the March 22 protest here against aid to the *contras* and against U.S. support to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Iraqi regime set back in war against Iran

BY FRED FELDMAN

"The Iraqi army is being ground down by Iran," reported John Kifner in the February 28 *New York Times*, "because it lacks motivation and the will to fight" in contrast to "the ferocious fighting spirit of the lightly armed Iranians."

This evaluation of the war against Iran launched more than five years ago by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was attributed to "Western military analysts and diplomats" in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. It followed a major victory scored by a combined force of Iranian Revolutionary Guards, volunteers, and army personnel.

On February 9 an Iranian force crossed the Shatt-al-Arab waterway separating the two countries and captured the southern city of Faw, formerly a port for Iraqi oil exports.

Tens of thousands of Iranian troops then reportedly moved in to consolidate and expand the beachhead.

Faw has been largely deserted, except for Iraqi troops, since shortly after the Iraqi regime began the war by launching a massive invasion of Iran in 1980. But the loss of Faw means that the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein no longer has access to the Persian Gulf.

After several weeks of fighting, Iraqi forces have been unable to significantly push back the Iranian troops — despite massive bombings by Iraqi planes, artillery shelling, and the use of helicopter gunships.

There are reported to have been as many as 10,000 Iraqi casualties in the battle for Faw. The 20,000-man Republican Guard, regarded as one of the Iraqi army's key units, was badly mauled.

The *Washington Post* quoted "a foreign military attaché" in Baghdad as saying, "I think we are near the so-called 'red line' on casualties beyond which the government feels it cannot go without facing serious problems politically at home."

Because of this, the Iraqi government was reported to be giving up the effort to retake Faw.

Further south, Iranian forces also continue to hold Majnoon Island and the surrounding marshes, which they captured earlier.

The Iraqi government conceded February 27 that Iranian forces had also penetrated northern Iraq, where the government faces a rebellion by the oppressed Kurdish minority.

Iranian military gains have occurred despite the fact that the Iraqi military has a four-to-one advantage in air power. The Iranian forces at Faw were "equipped only with light weapons and the few guns and tanks they were able to capture from the Iraqis," according to the March 10 *Newsweek*.

The Iranian forces are estimated to have taken at least as many casualties as the Iraqi army but their morale is nonetheless high. "The hundreds of Iranian troops seen on the small part of the peninsula were a mixture of volunteers, soldiers, Revolutionary Guards and clergymen," a *Washington Post* correspondent wrote from Faw.

"Most fighters seemed in high spirits, laughing and shouting 'Death to America,' 'War, war, to victory.'"

By contrast, a *New York Times* correspondent cited an unnamed diplomat's assessment of how the Iraqi people view dictator Saddam Hussein: "He's hated, because people hate the guts of this war and because of the security apparatus."

The fighting spirit of the Iranians is a product of the 1979 Iranian revolution, which overthrew the U.S.-imposed shah and established a republic. This was a gigantic blow to U.S. domination throughout the region.

The dictatorship of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, which feared the revolution, sought to overturn it by invading Iran in 1980. Saddam Hussein was backed by Washington and other imperialist governments and by the reactionary monarchies in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf region.

The Iranian people fought back effectively and heroically, however. The Iraqi invaders were stopped and then began to be pushed back. The Iranian government demanded that Saddam Hussein, who had begun the war, be ousted from office.

To make it possible for Saddam Hussein to continue the war, the U.S. and French

governments provided him with combat planes. The Saudi Arabian monarchy alone poured more than \$35 billion in aid into his coffers. U.S. spy satellites and AWACS reconnaissance planes monitored every inch of the war zone, and the data they gathered was passed on to the Iraqi military.

Washington sought to tighten an arms embargo against Iran. "We are making substantial efforts to diminish the flow of arms to Iran from free world sources," said a State Department spokesman last March 20.

And U.S., British, and French warships patrol the Gulf area to keep the pressure on Iran.

This massive assistance has allowed Saddam Hussein to continue a murderous aggression against Iran, including bombing raids against cities that cause hundreds of deaths, attacks on ships bound for Iran and oil installations, and using chemical weapons against thousands of Iranian soldiers.

The Iranian government announced, according to the February 21 *Washington Post*, that the Iraqi warplanes had shot down an Iranian passenger airliner, killing 46 people.



Iranian victim of chemical war attack by Iraqi military. Morale of Iranian forces, rooted in gains of 1979 revolution, is cause of Iran's advances in war with Iraqi regime. Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launched war in 1980 by invading Iran in an effort to overturn revolution.

National farmers' group meets in Iowa

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

DES MOINES, Iowa — Eighty leading farm activists, representing 171 organizations from 25 states, met here February 23 and 24 to consolidate the National Save the Family Farm Committee. Initiated several months ago, the National Save the Family Farm Committee (NSFFC) has quickly grown throughout the Midwest.

The breadth of the NSFFC can be seen in a partial list of organizations represented at the meeting. They included American Agriculture Movement Inc., National Farmers Organization, American Agriculture Movement Grassroots, Iowa Farm Unity, Farm Alliance of Rural Missouri, Minnesota Groundswell, Ohio Family Farm Movement, Federation of Southern Cooperatives (which itself represents 60 southern farm organizations), North American Farm Alliance, Illinois Farm Alliance, Wisconsin Farm Unity, Northern Plains Resource Council (which represents farmers and ranchers from Colorado, Montana, and North and South Dakota), Community Farm Alliance of Kentucky, and California Family Farm Committee.

The meeting adopted the National Rural Crisis Action Campaign. The campaign is a response to the accelerating rate of farm foreclosures and government attacks on farmers codified in the 1985 Farm Bill.

The campaign demands: parity farm prices with supply management; debt restructuring with a moratorium on foreclosures and repossessions; and emergency survival assistance for those needing food, clothing, shelter, or health care.

The campaign will include coordinated public rallies and demonstrations, public education, legal actions, boycotts, and rural voter education and registration.

The campaign was kicked off before this meeting with a series of rallies in Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Kentucky.

A subcommittee was formed to rewrite the Farm Policy Reform Act. This bill had been submitted to Congress by Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) during the debate on the 1985 Farm Bill, but it was defeated. The Farm Committee voted to call the amended bill the National Save the Family Farm Act. They hope to introduce the bill in Congress at a future date.

In addition to working out various aspects of the Rural Crisis Action Campaign, the meeting discussed the situation of Black farmers, who have been hardest hit by the crisis in the countryside. John Zippert of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives pointed to the discriminatory policies being directed against Black farmers. There is evidence, Zippert said, that southern production credit associations are foreclosing on Black farmers first.

The meeting also heard Dan Peterson, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local P-9 on strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota. The activ-

ists voted to endorse P-9's struggle for a decent contract. They also voted to support the boycott of Hormel food products and "inputs" such as feed.

The farm activists heard two Filipino farmers. They explained that most of the land in the Philippines is owned by a few families while the majority of peasants are landless. The struggle for ownership of the land, they explained, is part of the dynamic that helped to topple the Marcos dictatorship.

Craig Severton, a South Dakota farmer, also spoke. He invited those in attendance to participate in a protest action against the sale of his family's farm. Severton, who

recently participated in a work brigade to Nicaragua, explained that the focus of this protest would be military spending by the U.S. government — particularly the money being spent for the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua. This money, he said, should be used to help family farmers.

The meeting elected officers for NSFFC. Helen Waller from Northern Plains Resource Council was elected president. Merle Hansen of North American Farm Alliance was elected first vice-president. And Corky Jones of the American Agriculture Movement was elected second vice-president.

Support \$100,000 fund drive

Continued from front page

In addition to aiding the socialist periodicals, the fund will help make possible an expansion of Pathfinder Press' publication schedule in 1986.

This expansion is already under way. It began with the release of the new book *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*.

Pathfinder just published *Apartheid's Great Land Theft*, a new pamphlet on the struggle by Blacks for land in South Africa. Later in the year it will issue an updated and expanded edition of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, edited by Elizabeth Stone.

Two new volumes in the series on the history of the Communist International under Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin are also slated for 1986. These volumes will bring together for the first time in English the rich lessons of this important period in working-class history.

To raise the \$100,000 goal in an eight-week period from March 15 to May 10 is a big challenge.

"But we are confident we'll make it, in full and on time," Freiwirth said. "Many workers and farmers see these publications as vital to their struggles. So they will dig deep and come up with contributions anywhere from a couple of bucks to a week's wages."

"A big boost to the drive," he said, "was the decision by the Socialist Workers Party to make the fund a central campaign. Branches of the SWP have been discussing how to maximize the participation of all its members in this effort."

In recent weeks, the fund has been discussed at meetings of socialist workers in various industrial unions. "From all reports," Freiwirth said, "the response has been enthusiastic."

He pointed to the example of the socialist workers in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. These workers were forced to accept a concession contract

that included a lump-sum payment in lieu of a wage increase in the first year. After discussing the contract and the fund, they decided to make the most of a bad situation and contribute all or part of their payment to the fund. So far, 14 socialist oil workers have pledged their entire payment, and 13 others have pledged part of it. The total pledges from these 27 workers comes to \$14,725.

"This fund," Freiwirth continued, "will be made through small contributions from hundreds of working people. We especially want to appeal to the readers of the *Militant* and *PM*. In previous funds they have come through in a big way."

Freiwirth emphasized that "the money is needed right away. We are experiencing large expenses now in undertaking to cover the Hormel strike and publishing the new books and pamphlets."

"To participate in the fund," Freiwirth said, "just write a check to the Socialist Publication Fund or make a pledge to be paid during the drive and send it to Socialist Publication Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014."



Militant Fund helps to publish *Perspectiva Mundial*

Nicaragua's disabled integrated in society

A visit to rehabilitation organization

BY JON HILLSON

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We were not considered human, we were something outside society," Armando Lumbi says quietly as he adjusts his leg in the wheelchair, "we were 'invalids.'"

That was then, he explains, before the victory of the Sandinista revolution, July 19, 1979.

Under the tyranny of the Somoza clan.

Because of inadequate health care and the absence of physical therapy, Armando's weak legs atrophied and he's now unable to walk.

Today he works with the Organization of Disabled Revolutionaries (ORD) in Managua.

The group, which emerged out of the revolutionary process in Nicaragua, seeks, Armando says, "to eradicate the image of the 'invalid' which existed under Somoza."

This reactionary stereotype meant for disabled people that "there was no integration in society, no possibility to study or work; much less to have access to sports. We were," Armando notes, "always inactive."

The ORD operates on the political level, "aiming to raise consciousness" about the disabled, he explains. It is done by promoting projects of physical access to buildings, services, and transport, and of placing disabled people in job-training programs initiated by the Sandinista government.

A workshop in the office enables disabled men and women to build wheelchairs. "I remember not being able to get one under Somozaism," Armando says. "I had to stay in bed for eight months."

Hundreds of disabled people have been trained through ORD and sister projects and now work in clothing and sewing collectives, at manual labor, in radio and television repair, and other productive jobs. And now, for the first time, sports teams are organized, including wheelchair basketball teams.

Such projects include those disabled by "polio, accident, and the war," Armando says.

Through a massive education and vaccination campaign, the Sandinista government has wiped out polio, which under the miserable conditions of Somozaism affected those unable to afford vaccine.

But between the war to overthrow the despot and the U.S.-backed mercenary war today, tens of thousands have been permanently disabled.

Lots of work ahead for the ORD, Armando says, "but now, we as disabled people are part of the Nicaraguan people, we are part of the new man being formed by the Sandinista Front and for this we swear to defend this revolution, to do all we can to defend it against aggression, including a direct intervention, even in our wheelchairs."

As Armando is talking, people in wheelchairs come in and out of the former Somozaist household that serves as the ORD's offices. Others, not disabled, pass through as well: they are work volunteers, giving their Sundays to help out.

A lean, young man pulls up as Armando finishes talking. Reynerio Medina, 24, is from Estelí, and was disabled in battle outside Managua in June 1979. Twelve of his comrades were killed in the combat that deprived him of the use of his legs.

His memory of the fighting is vague, he says, "there was chaos then, everywhere."

In combat since 1976 until his wound, the adjustment to a wheelchair over the past six years has been hard for him.

But now, Reynerio says he is "more politically clear than when I was in the mountains. I was more romantic then, less conscious, more personalized in my actions."

Therapy, solidarity, job training, and support from the ORD has helped. The organization draws its strength from the revolution itself, he says, because the revolution "for the first time gives the Nicaraguan people the ability to talk, to listen, to be part of the process of transformation."

Now, he says, "there is the possibility of access to study, to work, to health care, to participation."

"We are becoming," Reynerio says, "a whole people. The Nicaraguan people. That is why," Reynerio goes on, leaning forward, his voice getting stronger, more intense, "if I can't walk, so what? If you do not have a hand, it's not important. If you don't have a foot, or you lose an arm, it's no longer important, no matter the pain, because we are becoming a whole people."

"This is why our spirit, that of the disabled, cannot be separated from that of our people," the young veteran explains.

"In the mountains I saw people die, I fought, I killed people. One minute you are next to your friend, your *compañero*, your brother, and then he is at your feet, dead. But you continue. You are wounded, you cannot walk, but it is of no significance," Reynerio goes on, talking rapidly.

"This is not just my experience, but that of thousands, tens of thousands, as we become a people, as we build a new society, as we defend it and prepare to resist aggression," he explains.

'Contras' unable to attack harvest

BY HÉCTOR CARRIÓN

MATAGALPA, Nicaragua — Of the 10,000 volunteers participating in the coffee harvest this year in Region VI, not a single one has been killed by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries (known as *contras* in Spanish), said Commander Manuel Salvatierra, delegate of the Sandinista People's Army here.

Salvatierra spoke at a February 19 press conference in Matagalpa, along with delegates of the government and the Ministry of the Interior (MINT), on the military situation in this region. Region VI includes this city and stretches north to the Honduran border and east to central Nicaragua.

Salvatierra pointed out that in the past 45 days, the Sandinista army killed and wounded more than 600 of Washington's mercenaries in the region in at least 136 military confrontations. During the last three months of 1985 to mid-February this year, some 338 *contras* deserted the mercenary ranks and gave themselves up to Sandinista authorities. Some 180 *contras* have been captured since January 1.

Salvatierra pointed out that the fact that the counterrevolution has not disrupted the coffee harvest is evidence of the stability being established here. He explained that the *contras* had many plans to prevent the coffee harvest from taking place, but since the Sandinista army pushed more than 3,000 back to Honduran territory, their plans were neutralized. In last year's coffee harvest, several dozen coffee pickers were murdered by the mercenaries throughout the country.

Commander Juan José Ubeda, delegate of the MINT, explained how Washington's mercenaries are now resorting to terrorist action against individual peasants. He also reported more progress by MINT special forces in breaking up the *contras*' network of couriers and collaborators in the region.

More than 65 peasants in the region have been killed by *contras* in the recent period for refusing to collaborate or join them, said Ubeda. One peasant woman was murdered because she successfully convinced her two sons to desert the mercenary ranks. Another woman was killed trying to stop the *contras* from taking her sons away.

This resistance to the counterrevolution, combined with the growing number of *contras* giving themselves up, shows the increasing rejection of the mercenaries by the



Armando Lumbi (right), who works with Nicaragua's Organization of Disabled Revolutionaries, and Reynerio Medina, a veteran of revolution against dictator Somoza.

sion," he explains.

"This is our national will, it is our commitment in the present, our connection with the past, to Sandino," he says, referring to Nicaragua's peasant guerrilla army leader and his seven-year war against the

U.S. Marines 50 years ago.

"Because we live in Nicaragua," he says, "we are different."

Donations to help the work of their organization can be sent directly to ORD, Apartado 3750, Managua, Nicaragua.

peasantry, said Ubeda. In the last period, MINT forces have captured 65 armed couriers for the *contras* and killed 49 couriers in battle.

Three Nicaraguans of peasant background who had acted as couriers for the mercenaries were brought before the press to testify and answer reporters' questions. All had been captured in battle.

Evaristo Soza Mendoza explained how he was recruited by the *contras* in 1984. Mendoza said he was visited by a man "who came to my house and told me that we had to struggle and organize for a new Nicaragua and to overthrow communism." Mendoza pointed out that he was recruited because he was a preacher for the Assembly of God church and had direct influence over some peasants. Mendoza said his job was to collect medicine for the mercenaries and "convince peasants that they had to help the *contras*."

But, he continued, the peasants he tried to recruit "told me they did not want to do this, that what they wanted to do was work."

Abel Aguilar Montoya, a courier recruited in 1983, explained that his job was to detect Sandinista army movements and let the *contras* know the location and size of the units. Montoya explained how he spotted a battalion of Sandinista youth in 1983 and reported their location to the *contras*. The mercenaries then went there the next day and massacred 20 of the young men. Montoya also mentioned another attack that took place in January of this year. The *contras* kidnapped 25 peasants from an evangelical chapel. Some were killed, and others were forced to join the mercenaries.

The third courier presented was Modesto Merlo Hernández, who acted as a courier for more than two years and had more than 20 other couriers under his command. His job was to deliver arms to the mercenaries and to report on the location of Sandinista troops. Hernández participated in three battles and then was captured.

As many as 130 rifles, machine guns, grenades, and land mines with the letters "Made in USA" were displayed. They had been seized from the mercenaries or turned over to authorities by peasants deserting the *contras*.

Commander Ubeda pointed out that not only is the MINT on an offensive against the *contras*, but it's also on a drive to protect the population from speculators, undisciplined members of the armed forces,

and corrupt public administrators. Ubeda said that some 40 soldiers had been reprimanded for undisciplined action, such as unauthorized firing of weapons. Eight public administrators were detained for corruption, and some merchants were fined for illegally raising the prices of basic goods.

Carlos Zamora, regional government coordinator and representative of President Daniel Ortega, gave a political evaluation of the present military situation here. He said, "This military stability will now allow us to develop economic and production plans in this region for the whole year."

Mercenaries for U.S. kill 6 civilians in cross-border raid

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Mauricio Demierre spent Sunday, February 16, at a religious ceremony held in Chinandega Province in Northern Nicaragua near the Honduran border.

By early evening Demierre, a 29-year-old Swiss agronomist and volunteer development worker, had loaded his Toyota pickup with women and children looking for rides back home. They were peasants, some returning from religious services, others from visits to relatives serving in the army.

At 8:40 p.m., while driving less than 10 miles from the town of Somotillo, they were ambushed by the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary terrorists (*contras*).

First, 9 Claymore mines exploded, blasting the pickup and forcing it to stop. The *contras* then raked the vehicle with machine-gun fire as women and children tried to scramble for safety. Later, 200 bullet holes were counted in the shattered truck.

The attack was over in minutes. Demierre and three women lay dead. Two others would die in the hospital shortly thereafter. Nine persons — including three infants — remain in critical condition in hospitals in León and Chinandega.

The Sandinista People's Army arrived only eight minutes after the mines exploded, but the mercenaries had already fled back across the Honduran border, their mission accomplished for that night.

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The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

12 The Militant March 14, 1986

Students fight for divestment at Dartmouth

Eighteen students were arrested at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire when they tried to prevent the college grounds crew from removing a shantytown built to symbolize conditions Blacks face under apartheid. The shanties were constructed by students last November to protest Dartmouth's investments in South Africa.

The college has more than \$63 million linked to businesses that have investments in the apartheid state.

The 18 students, arrested February 11, were charged with criminal trespass, and one was also charged with assault.

The Dartmouth Community for Divestment has been demanding that the college sell all its stocks in companies that do business with South Africa.

The campus became the focus of a fight over the right to protest against apartheid when 12 right-wing students, a few hours after Martin Luther King Day ended, drove a flatbed truck on the campus and took sledgehammers and attacked the shanties. Ten of the 12 were staff members of the *Dartmouth Review*, a bigoted magazine distributed on campus and nationally.

More than 200 students occupied the college offices for 30 hours to protest the administration's inaction against the right-wing students who were responsible for the attack.

The protest forced the administration to finally take action and suspend the 12 students charged with the racist action.

At a recent board of trustees meeting the students' demands for divestment and the removal of college President David McLaughlin were both turned down.

200 picket Reagan in St. Louis

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

ST. LOUIS — "Farms, not arms" and "Money for seeds, not contra dirty deeds," chanted more than 200 demonstrators as they picketed the Omni Hotel here in below-zero-degree weather. Inside, President Ronald Reagan was posing for pictures and launching at a \$500-a-plate banquet to benefit the Republican Party's local candidate for U.S. Senate.

The February 12 demonstration was jointly organized by the St. Louis April Mobilization Coalition and the American Agriculture Movement. Opponents of the U.S. war in Central America and farm activists carried the majority of the signs and banners. The picket line had been built as one of the first actions in a Campaign Against Aid to the Contras (U.S.-sponsored mercenaries fighting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government) launched at a vigil of 65 people the day before.

Many other groups were also represented on the picket line. These included members of the National Organization for Women and the National Abortion Rights Action League, who carried signs in support of abortion rights. Thirty members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) also participated. Some carried signs in sup-

port of meatpackers on strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists brought a banner that denounced apartheid in South Africa.

Unity was the theme of the speakers at a brief rally held in front of two parked tractors. Speaking were John Webster, president of the St. Louis UAW CAP (Community Action Program) council; Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance; Walter Weaver, a member of the St. Louis April Mobilization Coalition; and Rev. Ted Schroeder, the pastor of a church giving sanctuary to refugees from El Salvador.

Panel discusses Blacks and Nicaragua

"Report From Nicaragua: an Afro-American Perspective," a panel discussion, was held January 30 at the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library.

Panelists included Julian Bond, a Georgia state senator; David Ndaba, African National Congress of South Africa; journalist Roy Patterson; and three participants in the Third World Harvest Brigade, who were in Nicaragua January 4-18.

Bond explained that "there exists no Black view of Nicaragua as there existed with Vietnam, but such a view must be developed."

He visited Nicaragua in September and stressed that "much of the false information given to us by the U.S. government" depicts Nicaragua as a Soviet satellite and

CONTRA ATROCITIES

"It's not hard to tell, as we look around the world, who are the terrorists and who are the freedom fighters. Freedom fighters do not set out to capture and slaughter school children - terrorists, murderers do."

Secretary of State
George Shultz
June 24, 1984

I am a filmmaker who has spent a year in Central America, much of the time in Nicaragua. I have observed the insane violence of the Contra "freedom fighters." I have interviewed and filmed parents and friends of "slaughtered school children." Thousands of Nicaraguan civilians have been kidnapped, tortured, raped, castrated, disfigured,

mutilated, beheaded and skinned. This is not the work of an occasional deranged Contra, but rather part of a policy to terrorize civilians.

The Contras are remnants of the old Somoza dictatorship. They were state sponsored terrorists then. They are state sponsored now. Only the sponsoring state has been changed.

Haskell Wexler
Director of LATINO
Showing at the Public Theatre
New York City

Paid for by Witness for Peace, 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

This quarter-page ad was placed by Witness for Peace in the February 28 New York Times.

Honduras as needing "endless economic assistance," as well as Costa Rica "suddenly needing an army." The truth is that "the many deaths taking place in Latin American countries are paid for by U.S. tax dollars."

The state senator urged Blacks to "examine the relationship between the United States and the rest of the developing world. . . . We need to become politically

conscious to avert wrongs done in our name."

David Ndaba of the African National Congress explained the unity between the South African struggle and that of the Nicaraguan people, saying, "We see their blood as our own blood, two streams of blood spilled by the same hand of oppression, running similarly towards the ocean of liberation."

British group repudiates agent-baiting campaign

BY HARRY RING

A stunning blow has been dealt to an agent-baiting campaign directed against the Socialist Workers Party and the Fourth International. The campaign aimed at crippling the party and the international Marxist organization it supports by vilifying their leaders as agents of the U.S. government.

This has now been denounced as a "sinister and reactionary" fraud by a big wing of the group that initiated the frame-up.

Since the 1970s, the smear drive against the SWP has been waged without letup by a British group called the Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) and its U.S. satellite, the Workers League (WL). The driving force behind the anti-SWP campaign was the longtime cult figure of the WRP, Gerry Healy.

Last October a majority of the WRP leadership voted to expel Healy for reprehensible personal conduct. The expulsion brought a split in the organization, and there are now two groups calling them-

selves the Workers Revolutionary Party.

The grouping that could no longer abide Healy and his conduct publicly declared in February that it would not have "anything more to do with this monstrous frame-up" of the SWP.

An extensive account of this development by SWP leader Doug Jenness, with accompanying documentation, appears in the March 10 issue of *Intercontinental Press*.

The WRP agent-baiting campaign had its roots in the political degeneration of the WRP in the 1960s. It became a rabid ultra-left sect. An added negative feature was its evolution into a cult, with Healy as guru. The WRP leaders who have now broken with him agree that Healy has waged a "manic witch-hunt" designed to ratify his "paranoid schizophrenia."

Healy's organization broke with the Fourth International in 1963 by refusing to participate in the reunification of the International's forces, which had been divided for 10 years.

The central political issue involved was the Healy group's refusal to recognize that the Cuban revolution had opened the socialist revolution in the Americas. Healy branded that revolutionary victory a "fake" and argued that Fidel Castro was a capitalist ruler. The WRP never abandoned this false view.

As the Healyite organization moved further and further from Marxism, its organizational methods became more bureaucratic and its polemics more virulent.

In 1975 this took a dangerous turn when Healy charged that Joseph Hansen, a revolutionary for more than 40 years, was in fact an agent of both the FBI and Soviet secret police. Hansen, a central leader of the SWP and Fourth International, was a principal figure in combating Healy's sectarian and ultra-left views.

When George Novack, another SWP leader, condemned the slanders against Hansen, he was promptly labeled "an accomplice" of the Soviet secret police.

An international lie campaign was mounted. Healy's press was filled with

concocted "documents" and "exposés" assertedly proving these wild charges. Translated into a number of languages, they were distributed internationally.

From the beginning, the SWP and the Fourth International waged a counteroffensive against the Healyite slander crusade. Hansen wrote several major articles refuting each lie and exposing the entire frame-up nature of the campaign. These articles and other documents are contained in *Healy's Big Lie: The Slander Campaign Against Joseph Hansen, George Novack, and the Fourth International*. (See ad on this page.)

With Hansen's death in 1979, the agent-baiting charges were extended to younger central leaders of the party. It was asserted they were government agents recruited by Hansen. The proof? A number of them had gone to the same college.

Healy's campaign took another turn in July 1979 when Alan Gelfand, a lawyer for Los Angeles County, filed a costly lawsuit against the party. Gelfand had entered the party to disrupt it from within and had been expelled in January 1979 when he filed a legal brief in federal court charging that the SWP is a front for the FBI. In the July lawsuit he asked a federal court to remove the SWP leadership from office and to order the party that he be reinstated.

The most serious aspect of the court action is that it involves asking a capitalist court to determine who the members and leaders of a workers' party shall be and to review its political activity and internal life to determine if they are in consonance with the organization's constitution and stated purpose.

As those in the WRP who have now broken with Healy correctly observe, this is "an extremely damaging precedent in calling on the state to determine the membership of a working-class political organization."

If the court ruled for Gelfand, Jenness explains, it would represent a major blow to the constitutional freedom of association and have far-reaching implications for democratic rights in the United States.

The WRP leaders who have repudiated the agent-baiting campaign are urging efforts "to find a means to resolve this outside the courts, including an approach by the Workers League to the Socialist Workers Party."

So far, that plea has fallen on deaf ears. In the split last October, David North, head of the Workers League, went with the anti-Healy wing. But when called on to drop the reactionary court moves against the SWP, he objected vehemently and succeeded in splitting some members away from the anti-Healy forces.

Over a four-year period, the SWP sought, unsuccessfully, to get this patently baseless case thrown out of court. The presiding judge, Mariana Pfaelzer, persistently refused to do so.

She refused despite a national campaign supported by unionists, civil rights activists, and civil libertarians demanding that the court keep its nose out of the party's business.

When the case finally did come to trial in March 1983, Judge Pfaelzer was compelled to declare that Gelfand had failed to produce "one shred of evidence" to support his slanderous charge that the SWP's leaders are FBI agents.

It was three years ago this month that Pfaelzer said that. Yet she still has not handed down a ruling in the case or indicated when she will.

Nor has she acted on an SWP motion — which she had suggested was in order — that Gelfand and his attorneys pay the party's legal costs for subjecting it to a baseless court action.

With the support of the Political Rights Defense Fund, the SWP is still fighting this important case. The split in Healy's forces and the refusal of the anti-Healy wing to be party to the frame-up will surely aid the fight.

These developments are reported extensively by Jenness, who also analyzes the political factors involved. And he offers valuable insight on why agent-baiting in the workers' movement is such a deadly business. It's an important article.

For further reading. . . .

The following readings give a comprehensive description of the origins and evolution of Healyism over more than 20 years, and present rich lessons on the nature of political sectarianism.

• **Healy's Big Lie: The Slander Campaign Against Joseph Hansen, George Novack, and the 4th International.** 87 pp. \$4.00

• **Marxism vs. Ultraleftism: The Record of Healy's Break with Trotskyism.** 254 pp. \$4.95.

• "The split in the British Workers Revolutionary Party." By Doug Jenness. *Intercontinental Press*, Dec. 2, 1985. \$1.25.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. Add \$.75 for handling except for Jenness article.

Salvadoran workers protest gov't austerity

Continued from back page

strike last year to protest the arrest of their president, one of the first public strikes in El Salvador over human rights issues.

In November, 3,000 members of the Telecommunication Workers union (ASTTEL) struck for 19 days when one of their leaders, Humberto Centeno, along with his two sons, was kidnapped by the Treasury Police. Centeno was released, but the two young men — Jaime and José Centeno — were detained, tortured, and forced to sign a confession. They did so only to save the life of their father.

The two young men have been charged with the October 26 kidnapping of El Salvador's civil aviation chief. They remain in prison.

Other members of the union have been arrested, tortured, and framed up.

On January 18 about 8,000 workers took part in a labor march in San Salvador protesting the Duarte regime's antiunion repression.

Composition of new labor front

In addition to FENASTRAS, other members of the newly formed National Union of Salvadoran Workers are:

- The Popular Democratic Union (UPD), which was formed in 1980 when Duarte first came to power and which had a formal relationship with the Duarte regime through the signing of a "social pact" with his Christian Democratic Party. The UPD was among the biggest participants in the regime's programs and received big backing from the U.S. Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a largely CIA-financed organization that is tied to the AFL-CIO.

The UPD broke with AIFLD last year, and its relationship with Duarte foundered when his promised reforms failed to materialize.

- The Salvadoran Workers Central. This was one of the main unions in the AIFLD-led coalition that backed Duarte in the elections. It had been involved in several big strikes, and it split from the UPD when the UPD hesitated to break its social pact with the Duarte regime.

- Independent unions, including the teachers' union, the social security workers, and the postal workers.

- COACES — the Coalition of Cooperative Associations of El Salvador

— which includes cooperative associations ranging from agricultural production to credit unions. With the inclusion of both COACES and the UPD cooperatives, this brings into the new labor coalition virtually all of the peasant cooperatives in El Salvador.

Only the Democratic Workers Confederation (CTD) has not joined the coalition. It is the only labor group remaining that supports the Duarte regime. The CTD is the rival organization that was created by AIFLD when it attempted to split the UPD.

War escalates

These changes in the labor movement occur in the context of a major escalation of the war by the U.S.-armed Salvadoran army. The Salvadoran army launched a major assault against the FMLN stronghold on the Guazapa volcano, 15 miles outside the capital city of San Salvador.

Guazapa has become a symbol of the rebel endurance. Over the last five years the Salvadoran army has launched more than 20 major military operations against Guazapa and almost daily bombing raids. But they have been unable to dislodge the FMLN fighters.

Guazapa has been under siege by the Salvadoran army for more than a month. The army's target is the 1,000 civilians who live in Guazapa and support the FMLN.

It is standard practice for the Salvadoran army to subject the peasants who live in rebel-held areas to massacres, bombings, and forced removals.

So far, about 350 peasants have been captured and taken from the Guazapa volcano to a nearby sugar mill where they were held for several weeks. Most were reported released to the Red Cross. Some 30 peasants are reported dead.

The Salvadoran army claims that they are "rescuing" civilians. But journalists who have been able to get through despite a military cordon clamped around the area tell a different story.

One group of 73 men, women, and children were washing in a ravine near the village when troops from the U.S.-trained Atlacatl Battalion fired a mortar round, wounding several of the people. Some surrendered. The rest came out after the soldiers threatened to toss a grenade into the ravine.



Salvadorans murdered by U.S.-trained and financed Salvadoran army. New labor coalition calls on government to end "murders of laborers, students, peasants, and other citizens."

The peasants were put on a helicopter and flown to the sugar mill. Their belongings, crops, and granaries were burned by the army.

The Salvadoran army calls this "Operation Phoenix." The plan is to burn away the guerrilla zone and then repopulate it and restart agricultural production in an army-controlled community that would emerge from the ashes.

Trial in murder of AIFLD employees

Meanwhile, two corporals in the National Guard were convicted of the murder of AIFLD employees Michael Hammer and Mark Pearlman and of a Salvadoran land reform official, José Rodolfo Viera. The three were gunned down Jan. 3, 1981. They were among the tens of thousands who have been assassinated by right-wing death squads linked to the National Guard and the country's two other national security forces.

In a remarkably bold statement in the repressive atmosphere of a Salvadoran courtroom, the prosecutor said the trial was not only of the two corporals but of the "National Guard's death squads."

The two National Guard officers who ordered the killings — Lt. Rodolfo López Sibrian and Capt. Eduardo Avila — have been let off the hook.

Death-squad leader talks

In a related development, a Salvadoran army officer who is seeking asylum in the United States has come forward with firsthand information about the death squads.

Ricardo Castro, a former company commander in the Salvadoran army, admitted in an interview in the March issue of the *Progressive* that he had personally led death-squad operations and participated in the assassination of 14 people.

His testimony sheds some light on the killing of the AIFLD employees.

Castro said he was in the army fort one day when word came down that Lt. Rodolfo López Sibrian had been taken away for ordering the murder of the Americans. But a few hours later, Castro said, López Sibrian walked in. "Hey, man," Castro said to him, "I thought you were in jail." López Sibrian, pulling bunches of \$100 bills from his pockets, boasted, "This

is what happens when you have contacts high up." Castro said that López Sibrian had about \$15,000 in "American dollars." Castro said everyone understood that he had been protected and paid off to keep him from spilling the beans about the official character of the death-squad operations.

U.S. linked to death squads

Castro's testimony makes clear that the death-squad operations are an integral part of the Salvadoran military operation, and that they are carried out with the knowledge and assistance of U.S. agencies and officials — allegations that have been hotly denied by the Reagan administration and the Salvadoran government.

Castro himself worked for the CIA and served as a translator for a U.S. official who advised the Salvadoran military on torture techniques and assassinations.

He said that he met with a CIA official in Washington with whom he discussed his own and the general staff's participation in the death squads.

Despite protests by antiwar and human rights groups in the United States, U.S. military advisers have begun a \$5 million program to train and equip the Salvadoran National Police, National Guard, and Treasury Police. The program, aimed at developing "urban counterterrorism," was begun three weeks ago under legislation approved last year by Congress, ending a decade-long ban on training of foreign police forces. In 1974 Congress banned almost all training of foreign police units because of repeated charges that U.S.-assisted security forces were guilty of consistent human rights violations.

Castro said the death-squad killings are a highly organized activity of the Salvadoran military, which chooses the targets and gives the assassination orders. "We always have a list," he said.

"Also," Castro said, "the rich people — the leading citizens of the community — traditionally have a great deal of input. Whatever bothers them, if they've got someone who just came into their ranch or their farm, and they consider them a bad influence, they just send a message to the commander. Normally, that person would be eliminated."

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM': Latin meetings oppose war

"You have affirmed that this small country of Nicaragua can count on the support of the peoples of the world and in particular of all Latin Americans." These were the words of Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce to the 170 delegates from 115 political parties at the Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This important gathering was sponsored by the Sandinista National Liberation Front in Managua. Besides the FSLN, there were six delegations representing governing parties: from Peru, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Cuba, Uruguay, and Colombia.

"The Sandinista revolution is the struggle of all the Americas," said Rubén Berrios from the Puerto Rican Independence Party, speaking on behalf of all delegates at the opening session.

The new issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* reports on this event, as well as covering the conference of the Anti-Imperialist Organization of Central America and the Caribbean, which also met in Managua in February. This organization called for an international day of protests against U.S. military in-

tervention in the region.

Perspectiva Mundial

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Protest against 'contra' aid set for Boston March 22

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Solidarity and anti-apartheid activists here are gearing up for a March 22 protest demanding the United States cease all aid to the Nicaraguan *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) and the CIA-backed Angolan terrorist group UNITA.

The protest coalition is also demanding an end to the U.S.-sponsored air war in El Salvador and the breaking of all U.S. links to the racist South African apartheid regime.

Speaking at the action will be Pete Winkles, business agent of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 on strike against Hormel; Arnoldo Ramos, representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador;

Jeanette Machobi of the African National Congress of South Africa; as well as a representative of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Events begin March 22 at Copley Square with a march to Boston Common and a 1:00 p.m. rally.

The antiwar, antiracist protest has been called by a variety of area organizations, including Central America Solidarity Association, Pledge of Resistance, Comité El Salvador, New England Central America Network, Massachusetts Labor Committee for a Free South Africa, Southern Africa Support Committee of Massachusetts, Southern Africa Task Force-Mobilization for Survival, All Peoples Congress, and Socialist Workers Party.

The National Organization for Women has called two abortion rights actions — in Washington, D.C., for March 9, and in Los Angeles for March 16. The theme of the actions is a "National March for Women's Lives" to keep abortion and birth control safe and legal.

NOW is involving a broad range of women's rights, Black, Latino, student, and labor organizations in building the marches.

For information on the Washington march, contact National March for Women's Lives, 1401 New York Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005; telephone (202) 347-2279. For information on the Los Angeles march, 1242 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90035; telephone (213) 652-5576.

Women stand up to antichoice offensive in Missouri

BY MICHELLE YELLIN

ST. LOUIS — A February 8 press conference here to build the March 9 abortion rights demonstration heard representatives from NOW, the National Abortion Rights Action League, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Also speaking was Amy Stevens, a representative of the many women who serve as clinic escorts in the St. Louis area, protecting women entering abortion clinics from harassment and attacks from

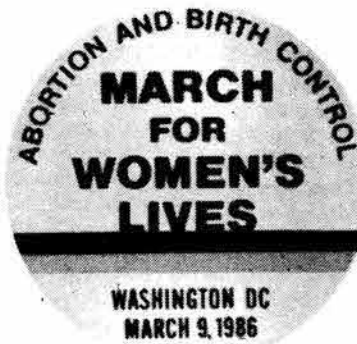
right-wing antiabortion fanatics. The escorts play a major role in the prochoice movement here.

Stevens said it was necessary to get out and march to call attention to the fact that "we are under attack. Clinics are literally under attack. All attacks on the law, the clinics, and on people are intolerable."

The press conference occurred in a political climate created by the antichoice offensive on abortion rights in Missouri. There are currently two bills before the state legislature that aim to restrict abortion rights. Senate Bill 728 outlines a "plan of action" that would go into effect if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned or when some other action results in the state's right to ban abortion. The bill covers antichoice demands, from establishing "fetal rights" to granting protection to those who "refuse to participate in abortion." Under the bill, doctors performing abortions could be charged with murder.

SB 766, a second bill, states that "no public funds, public facilities, or public employees shall ever be used to perform, assist, or advocate abortion." Public facilities, such as state hospitals and universities that currently provide abortions and counseling, would be ruled unlawful if they continue with these services. This bill would further limit the right of women to control their lives.

This antichoice legislation and the physical attacks on women's freedom to choose has reinforced the determination of escorts and other prochoice activists to attend the march. There will be a send-off rally for marchers on March 8 at 11:00 a.m. at the Ladies Center.



For more information call (314) 367-9680 or 991-0512.

West Coast action building well in Bay Area

BY DIANA CANTU

SAN FRANCISCO — At a press conference here February 24, Janet Cook, northern California regional coordinator for the March for Women's Lives, reported on building for the action. The West Coast action will be held March 16 in Los Angeles.

Cook announced that 50 buses had been reserved from the Bay Area for the march, more than 30 of them from San Francisco.

She said participants were coming from Alaska, Hawaii, Colorado, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Two buses are coming from Utah.

She announced a March 13 meeting at the University of California at Berkeley to build the March 16 action, at which NOW President Eleanor Smeal will

speak.

Diana Oswald, president of Retail Store Employees Local 410, an affiliate of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, also spoke at the press conference, representing the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Local 410 has endorsed the March 16 action.

Oswald said, "Karen Silkwood is a heroine for all labor union women, and we want to keep her memory alive, but we also want to remember Rosie Jimenez." (Rosie Jimenez was the first woman to die from an illegal abortion after the Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress in 1976, cut off public funding for abortions.)

In the last week, important union support has been won for the abortion rights action.

The Pacific Northwest District Council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union officially sponsored the march.

In addition, the membership of Local 535 of the International Association of Machinists voted to endorse the action.

Oberlin students build March 9, organize against 'squeal law'

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

OBERLIN, Ohio — Eighty students of Oberlin College here turned out February 18 to hear about the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C.

Sherri Levine, a 1985 graduate of Oberlin and current chair of the Cleveland Abortion Rights Action

League, opened the meeting by reviewing the most recent attacks on abortion rights. She pointed to the recently passed Ohio House Bill 319 requiring parental notification if a minor seeks an abortion. The "squeal laws," as they are known, cause tremendous suffering for young women. Under the guise of "bettering communication between parents and children," Levine explained, the law "really says that a minor's body belongs to her parents."

Letters received by the National Abortion Rights Action League's "Silent No More!" campaign were read to the meeting. NARAL asked women who had had abortions, legally or illegally, to write down their experiences as testimony to the importance of keeping abortion safe and legal.

The letters told of a 12-year-old raped by her uncle and of women in abusive relationships. Whether the women were minors or adults, whether the abortions were before or after the 1973 legalization, they all told of women making responsible decisions.

When Diane Underwood, president of Cleveland National Organization for Women (NOW), asked how many students were planning on participating in the historic march to keep birth control and abortion legal, the room was full of raised hands. Over 70 students have signed up so far to go to Washington on buses leaving from the campus. As one student put it, "a lot of women were dying before '73. We were in the streets demanding abortion be legalized to save women's lives. We have to get back out into the streets to keep that right."

Questions and answers on the right to abortion

Continued from front page in society.

Abortion is a woman's most fundamental right. Without this right, women's equality is excluded. It is a precondition to women's liberation.

The decision to bear a child affects every other decision of a woman's life. When women are denied control over this decision, they lose control over their lives.

Does anyone really think a woman has an equal shot at succeeding at a job, education, or career if she can't control her childbearing?

The right to abortion challenges the chief justification for discriminating against women: that women's real role is in the home taking care of children.

As long as women can be forced by law to have a child every time they conceive, it is absurd to say that women can be equal to men.

Would anyone consider a man to be free if laws prevented him from controlling his body or forced him to father and raise children against his will?

It is because the right to abortion raises basic questions of women's liberation and equality that it has come under such fierce attack from the church and the state.

Q. Is abortion murder?

A. According to the Catholic church hierarchy and other antiwoman forces, every fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus in a woman's womb is a person. And every person's life is sacred.

Except the person of the pregnant woman. If a germination in a woman's womb (no matter how it was implanted — whether by accident, ignorance, or even by violence on the part of a rapist) is elevated into a person, the woman herself must be downgraded into a non-person. She becomes a mere receptacle or womb for producing persons: a baby-making machine.

The so-called right-to-lifers have a warped, reactionary sense of justice. In weighing the life of a woman against a fertilized egg, they choose the egg.

These opponents of abortion like to use gory, blown-up photographs and hoaxes,

such as the film, "The Silent Scream," in a demagogic appeal to the horror people feel at the idea that children are abused or killed.

But this pretense of being scientific has about as much validity as that of the "scientists" who helped justify slavery by mustering "scientific proof" that Black people were inferior.

For many reasons, both biological and social, a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus is not the same thing as a human being.

The fetus is only a potential human being that lives off the body of a pregnant woman. A fetus has no contact with the outside world and therefore has no human thoughts or emotions. Any "humanity" the fetus has is only potential and abstract.

But there is nothing abstract about the humanity of a pregnant woman. She has very real hopes, fears, and aspirations for her future. To force her to bear a child against her will is an assault on her humanity and dignity.

Those who trumpet their concern for the "right to life" of a fetus show no such con-

cern for the thousands of women who died each year as a result of botched abortions before abortion was legalized.

The idea that a fetus is a human being is not scientific, but a religious or philosophical point of view.

At that, it is a view held by only a small minority of religious organizations, chief among them the Roman Catholic Church.

In fact, even the Roman Catholic Church did not hold that abortion was murder in all circumstances until 1869. Prior to then, it held that abortion was murder only after the fetus had been "ensouled." This they set at 40 days for a male fetus and 80 days for a female fetus.

How they determined the sex of the fetus to set the date of "ensoulment" is anybody's guess.

Those who hold the belief that the fetus is a human being are free to conduct their reproductive lives accordingly. They do not have the right to shackle women with their views.

The Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* rejected the idea that a fetus is a per-

son. It further stated, "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the disciplines of medicine, philosophy, and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary... is not in a position to speculate as to the answer.... There has always been strong support for the view that life does not begin until live birth."

Opponents of women's rights try to sucker people into pointless, hairsplitting arguments over the exact point at which human life begins. This is a total diversion from the real issue: the right of women to control their own bodies.

Q. What is the Hyde Amendment and why should working people oppose it?

A. The 1977 congressional Hyde Amendment cut Medicaid funding for most abortions. In 1981, it was amended to cut off funding of abortions in all cases, including rape and incest, except those necessary to save the life of the woman. State legislatures have followed suit. Today

Continued on next page

Minnesota socialist slams 'fetal rights' bill

BY JIM ALTENBERG

MINNEAPOLIS — Under the guise of protecting pregnant women from violence, a serious attack on abortion rights is being discussed in both houses of the Minnesota legislature. Democratic (DFL) and Republican (IR) politicians have introduced a bill that would make it a felony for anyone to intentionally cause injury or death to a fetus. According to the bill, a violent attack against a woman that results in a miscarriage or stillbirth is regarded as a crime against the fetus, not against the woman who suffered the assault. The effect of the bill is to put into law the existence of a fetus as a person, as a being that has rights of its own.

Geoff Mirelowitz, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Minnesota, called on all supporters of women's rights to join forces to speak out against the proposed law.

Mirelowitz called the bill "an ominous attack on the struggle for women's rights and on abortion rights in particular."

Despite the claims of some of the politicians supporting the bill, Mirelowitz said, "this bill has nothing to do with combating violence against women. The bill aims to undercut that struggle by promoting the reactionary idea that women in fact have no rights of their own, no lives outside of their ability to have children."

"The bill provides the government and antiabortion forces with a deadly weapon to be used against abortion rights," Mirelowitz warned. "It opens the door to murder prosecutions of doctors who provide abortions and the women who receive them."

Last year, a Minnesota woman's baby was born dead after she was brutally beaten. Another woman, who was 8½ months pregnant, had a stillbirth after the

car she was in was hit by a reckless driver. County prosecutors, working with anti-abortion groups, attempted to press murder charges in both cases. Their efforts were overturned by the Minnesota Supreme Court. The court ruled that a fetus was not a person and that murder charges could not be applied.

Seizing on the public outrage over these two horrible incidents, DFL and IR politicians launched a campaign for a law making "fetal death" a crime. A number of politicians explicitly linked their support for the bill to their opposition to abortion rights.

Another effort was recently made in St. Paul to legally establish a fetus as a person. An unsuccessful attempt was made to pass an ordinance through the city council that required fetal material from abortions to be buried or cremated, as is required when a person dies.

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley

Hear Eleanor Smeal, president of National Organization for Women. Thursday, March 13, 8 p.m. 155 Dwinelle Hall, University of California at Berkeley. Ausp: National Organization for Women and UC Berkeley. For more information call (415) 386-4232.

San Jose

Keep Abortion Safe and Legal. Speakers: Janet Cook, Northern California coordinator for March 16 abortion rights march in Los Angeles, National Organization for Women; Lynn Reynolds, executive director of San Jose Planned Parenthood; Sherry Turner, member International Association of Machinists Local 562 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 8, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Rebellion in Haiti. Speakers: Pierre Jean-Baptiste, an American in solidarity with Haiti; Nelson Gonzalez, member Socialist Workers Party and United Steelworkers of America. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 15, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Black Women's Struggle for Equality. A panel discussion. Sat., March 15, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Hormel Strike: Union Democracy in Action. Speakers to be announced. Sat., March 22, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Popular Revolt in the Philippines Topples Dictator. Speaker: Alan Weisbond, member Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 9, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Keep Abortion Safe and Legal. Speakers: Diane Haugesag, chairperson, Reproductive Rights Committee of Minnesota National Organization for Women; Adrienne Kaplan, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 6-662 and Socialist Workers Party. Speakers will report on NOW's March for Women's

Lives. Sun., March 16, 4 p.m. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Boycott Hormel: A Benefit Concert. Proceeds to support United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 Emergency Hardship Fund. Performers: Larry Long, Kathy and Leo Lara, Carrie Garendasy, and Jennifer Holt from "Tets Noires." Sun., March 16, 6 p.m. UAW Local 879 Hall, 2191 Ford Parkway. Donation: \$10. Sponsored by the performing artists. For more information call (612) 871-0885.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Mass Upsurge Topples Philippine Dictator. Panel discussion. Sun., March 16, 7 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

International Women's Day. A panel of speakers on women's struggles around the world. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Civil Rights Struggle: Lessons for Today. Speaker: Mac Warren, National Organization Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 7, 7:30 p.m., preforum dinner served 6:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: forum, \$2; dinner, \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

International Women's Day March and Celebration. Sat., March 8, 12 noon march from Union Square (south side at 14th St.) to site of historic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire (Greene St. and Washington Pl.). Featuring all-women, all-union marching band. 2 p.m. celebration at District 65 UAW (13 Astor Pl.), featuring speakers, music, poetry, and dance. Ausp: Coalition of Labor Union Women, New York City chapter. For more information call Kathy Andrade (212) 929-2600 x233 (days) or Belle Lewis (212) 873-4617 (evenings).

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Heroic Struggle of the Haitian People. Speakers to be announced. Sat., March 15, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Mil-

itant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Dallas

Crisis in the Philippines. Speaker: Don Daniel, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 8, 7:30 p.m. 366 W Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

UTAH

Price

The Hormel Strike: Workers Fight Back Against Union-busting. Speaker: Mary Zins, member United Steelworkers of America, just returned from Austin, Minnesota. Sat., March 8, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Suite 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Rebellion in Haiti. Speaker: Representative of Washington Office on Haiti. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 15, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Questions and answers on abortion

Continued from previous page

there are only 13 states plus the District of Columbia that fund abortions.

The Hyde Amendment is the greatest single blow to abortion rights to date. Representative Henry Hyde, the chief sponsor of the bill, put it this way: "I certainly would like to prevent, if I could legally, anybody having an abortion, a rich woman, a middle-class woman, or a poor woman. Unfortunately, the only vehicle available is the HEW [Health, Education, and Welfare] Medicaid bill."

Then-president James Carter put it equally frankly: "Well," he said, commenting on his support for the Hyde Amendment, "as you know, there are many things in life that are unfair, that wealthy people can afford and poor people can't."

The 1973 Supreme Court decision, reflecting the impact of the women's liberation movement, recognized abortion as a woman's constitutional right. But by cutting funding, Congress made it a privilege of the well-off.

This was a slap in the face to working-class and poor women. Black women, Latinas, and other victims of racist discrimination were hit the hardest. It is no coincidence that the first woman to die of an illegal, botched abortion because the Hyde Amendment priced legal abortion out of her reach was a young Chicana, Rosie Jimenez.

The Hyde Amendment means that poor women are forced to sacrifice food and rent money, or money they have been saving for education, to somehow raise the money to get an abortion. For many, it means putting off the date of the abortion until late in the pregnancy while they struggle to raise the money.

For others, it means having an unwanted child.

The federal Centers for Disease Control estimates that 20 percent of women who rely on Medicaid for medical care are unable to raise the money and are forced to carry unwanted pregnancies to term. They also estimate that 5 percent of these women resort to back-alley or self-induced abortions. (In 1977, the year the Hyde Amendment passed, the number of reported deaths due to illegal abortions increased for the first time since abortion was legalized.)

Until the Hyde Amendment, abortion was covered like any other medical procedure. By excluding abortion, credence is given to the idea that abortion is wrong. This idea is legitimized in law and has opened the way for further restrictions on the right to abortion.

The Hyde Amendment and similar state laws aim at weakening and dividing the movement for women's rights by creating a category of second-class women.

G.E. strike in Mass. grows

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

LYNN, Mass. — The strike by G.E. workers organized by International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 201 is widening. The 3,500 striking Lynn workers who walked off the job on February 21 were joined by 1,500 Local 201 members in the Medford and Everett G.E. plants on Monday, March 3. The union called the Medford and Everett workers out after G.E. negotiators walked out of a meeting late Sunday night claiming they were "tired."

At a press conference on March 3, Local 201 Business Agent Ron Malloy said negotiations had made progress but that G.E. was resisting contract language protecting shop stewards from arbitrary discipline by foremen and managers in the shop.

The strike began when G.E. suspended a shop steward for allegedly swearing at a foreman.

In addition to the protection of stewards from company harassment, the strike is over G.E.'s refusal to seriously negotiate with the local over hundreds of backlogged grievances. One instance of this is the case of a G.E. worker with 44 years' service. The worker hadn't received his first pen-

sion check after retiring in September despite repeated efforts by the union.

According to 201 Vice-president Jim Sweeny, "They're on an all-out offensive to bust the union. It's clear."

The Everett and Medford workers marched out of their plant at 8:00 a.m. to the cheers of several dozen striking Lynn workers and then had a union meeting to discuss the strike. The union was to pull out the remaining Lynn Turbine workers on Wednesday, March 5, and had scheduled a mass membership meeting and strike vote. A vote to strike would shut down the G.E. Lynn Riverworks, Everett, and Medford plants.

Seven hundred workers at G.E.'s Wilmington plant went on strike over similar issues on March 4.

Local 201 is sponsoring a meeting for its members on the day of the strike vote with representatives from the striking meatpackers from Austin, Minnesota. In addition there will be a rally for these strikers in Boston on March 9 sponsored by a broad range of unions at which a Local 201 representative will speak.

Russell Davis is a member of IUE Local 201 and works at the Lynn Riverworks plant.

Ireland: Britain's Vietnam

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Speaker

Martin Collins, a leader of the British Labor Party's Labor Committee on Ireland and Supporter of Irish freedom

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New York City

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Wednesday, March 19, 7 p.m.

79 Leonard St., Manhattan
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TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave., Zip 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 611A Tennessee. Zip: 25302. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Oh — Foreign correspondents in South Korea were advised that it was incorrect to say that oppositionists had been placed under "house arrest," since no arrest warrants had been issued. Perhaps



Harry Ring

better, it was suggested, would be "preventive restraint."

To shore up our defenses — We don't know the size of the staff

assigned to Nancy Reagan, but apparently it's sufficient to require a chief of staff. Annual salary, \$73,600.

Chintzy — We suspected those yuppies in New York's SoHo were more mouth than money. Confirmation came with word that Koos van den Akker is moving his men's boutique uptown. SoHo residents were even reluctant to pick up his designer sweaters, which were available for as little as \$600 to \$1,000.

Lovely — "Tiffany & Co. presents sterling silver flatware for children ... Little Red Riding Hood knife with sterling silver blade, \$99. Little Bo Peep fork,

\$71. Jack and Jill spoon, \$75. Only at Tiffany's."

Maybe if they had swindled the money — Residents of a co-op building on New York's Park Ave. vetoed the purchase of a \$600,000 apartment by a \$12-million lottery winner.

Se habla \$\$\$ — Companies trying to tap the Latino market have been using advertising hucksters with limited knowledge of language and culture. A beer company's slogan "Turn it loose" came out "Our beer causes diarrhea." And Perdue's, "It takes a tough man to make a chicken tender," was rendered, "It takes a sexually excited man to make a chicken sensual."

Note to Ron — In Scottsdale, Arizona, a residence is available that is patterned after a medieval castle, featuring 30-foot walls, seven secret passageways, and a dungeon. Maybe the Marcos and Duvalier families could share.

The far distant one? — We're late in reporting it, but the chairman of General Dynamics said that in the future, the company will deal honestly with the government. Therefore, he added, there's no need to look into past no-no's that brought government action. He has, he assured, established strict rules "to police ourselves."

Sick-sick-sick? — A bill to

permit the ultrareligious to school their children at home bogged down in the Missouri legislature when it was realized it had been routinely given the bill number 666 — the biblical "mark of the beast."

Don't be so rational — Medical researchers found bus drivers in San Francisco, and elsewhere, experience double the average rate of hypertension. Checking it out, they found the drivers are locked into schedules they can't possibly meet, even with skipping rest stops and meal breaks, and often work split shifts over a 12-hour day. The researchers concluded schedule adjustments would help more than medicine.

N.Y. rally in solidarity with Puerto Rican patriots

BY JANICE PRESCOTT AND ARTEMIO CAMACHO

NEW YORK — An enthusiastic rally was held here recently in solidarity with the 13 Puerto Rican independence activists arrested last August 30 by the FBI. One of the victims, Jorge Farinacci, who was released on \$1 million bail, spoke at the Casa de las Americas rally on February 19.

The 13 activists are accused of being members of the Macheteros (machete wielders), a proindependence organization. They are charged with participating in the \$7-million robbery of a Wells Fargo armored truck in Connecticut in 1983.

Farinacci described the government operation, in which some 300 FBI agents swooped down on the independence fighters in coordinated attacks in Puerto Rico; Cuernavaca, Mexico; and Dallas, Texas, as a "political-military operation by the U.S. government. Its purpose," he said, "was to terrorize and paralyze the Puerto Rican independence movement."

He explained that the terror operation "exposed at the roots the undemocratic character of colonialism. They didn't consider in any way the colonial government."

"The fragile character of colonialism was shown — the so-called democracy based on universal rights. The Puerto Ricans are aware those rights do not exist, particularly for the proindependence advocates."

Farinacci said the message from the imperialists was, "We own Puerto Rico."

Carlos Feliciano, himself a former political prisoner in the 1960s, introduced Farinacci, pointing to the need for unity at different levels to fight for the national liberation of Puerto Rico.

Another of the 13 independence activists, Norman Ramirez Talavera, was at the meeting, which was sponsored by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. Only four have been allowed bail.

The Puerto Rican activists were arrested after a year and a half of FBI surveillance. More than 1,200 tapes were made of their telephone conversations. Even the government admits only 90 are relevant to the case.

The government's investigation continues, as does harassment of friends and family by the FBI.

Farinacci, who is a member of the editorial board of *Pensamiento Critico*, a proindependence magazine published in Puerto Rico, said the publication "will not be silenced." In an attack on freedom of the press, the FBI ransacked the offices of the magazine and destroyed its presses. It continues to publish, however.

The "blatant racism and chauvinism" of the U.S. government in carrying out the operation inspired a deep revulsion among the Puerto Rican people, Farinacci said. Their support for the activists has been

very strong. The government has been surprised by the depth of this support. He added that the main task now is "to channel this support into a movement."

Among the trade unions and professional and religious organizations that have come out in support of the 13 are the Puerto Rican Institute for Civil Rights, the Association of University Professors, the Teamsters union, the Federation of Teachers, the National Union of Health Workers, and the Independent Union of Airport Workers.

Farinacci said this case has increased the unity of the Puerto Rican left in action.

Farinacci, Ramirez, and the two others who are out on bail, Carlos Ayes Suarez and Angel Diaz Ruiz, had to put up from \$250,000 to \$1 million each. The other nine independence activists have been denied bail in a vicious attack on their democratic rights and the rights of all workers and other oppressed people in this country. Ron Kuby, one of the lawyers for the activists, said the trial probably would not take place for another year.

Those still in jail, all now at Manhattan Correctional Center, are Hilton Fernandez, Ivonne Melendez, Elias Castro Ramos, Norberto Gonzalez Claudio, Filiberto Ojeda Rios, Isaac Camacho, Luis Alfredo Colon Osorio, Luz Berrios Berrios, and Juan Enrique Segarra Palmer.

These supporters of Puerto Rican independence are being held under the Preventive Detention Act, passed in 1984, which allows the government to jail political dissenters without bail. While this law claims to grant defendants a hearing, the Puerto Rican independence activists were transported 3,000 miles to Connecticut so that family members, friends, and others could not testify, making an adequate legal defense impossible.

Lawyers for the proindependence activists are challenging the constitutionality of this law in an attempt to get the prisoners released.

A broad range of prominent civil rights and civil libertarian organizations is supporting the demand that these Puerto Rican political prisoners be granted bail. They include: the New York Civil Liberties Union, National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, American Friends Service Committee, Asian-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, The Bill of Rights Foundation, Inc., National Conference of Black Lawyers, National Lawyers Guild, and Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

For further information or to send a donation to help publicize the case, write the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, P.O. Box A-840, New York, N.Y. 10163, or call (212) 286-0924.

S. Africa 'emergency' may end, cops kill scores

Continued from Page 3
situation had "improved."

The United Democratic Front, an alliance of hundreds of anti-apartheid organizations with an estimated 3 million members, said ending the emergency would be "an acknowledgement that the emergency has failed to suppress the desire of our people to be free."

According to the February 14 *Johannesburg Weekly Mail*, "South Africa has experienced its most strike-bound January in a decade, reflecting an extraordinary upsurge in worker militancy. More than 385,000 working days were lost last month due to industrial action." Many of the strikes targeted racist policies.

Hundreds of Black youth fought back against police February 16 in Alexandra, a Black township near Johannesburg. The police fired tear gas into the home of the family of Michael Dirading, a youth killed by a private security guard, to break up a mourning ceremony. Over the next days, masses of youths continued resisting as repression intensified. The protesters set up barricades and marched through the streets chanting, "Mandela is our leader. Down with Botha and his reforms." (Nelson Mandela is the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress.)

Local leaders report that the apartheid regime's security forces killed 46 people in the township. Hundreds were injured, and hundreds of others were reported missing. The government admitted killing 23 people.

On February 18 more than 30,000 Alexandra residents held a rally and attempted to march to the police station. They demanded withdrawal of security

forces from the township. Cops stopped the march.

On February 21 some 40,000 people in Alexandra rallied and heard Desmond Tutu declare, "We are going to be rulers in this land." Tutu had sought unsuccessfully to persuade the government to end repression in Alexandra.

"It's not enough!" people shouted when Tutu reported that the government had agreed only to "consider" withdrawing its killers. "The death of our people must be avenged. Down with Botha!"

Although many students ended a pro-

longed boycott of the racist school system January 28, repression is provoking new student action.

According to a February 12 dispatch from the South Africa Press Association, "The return to school in the townships is already beginning to crumble in the face of shootings, detentions, and the observance of anniversaries of the deaths" of the victims.

The Release Mandela Committee met in the township of Kagiso February 14 and announced a campaign to defend Winnie

Mandela, who faces trial for attempting to live in her family home in Soweto. Father Smangaliso Mkatshwa, secretary general of the Southern African Bishops Conference, denounced "the sustained persecution of Winnie Mandela."

The meeting was attended by Allan Boesak and Beyers Naude and by representatives of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Black Students Society, Detainees Parents Support Committee, Port Elizabeth Consumer Boycott Committee, Soweto Civic Association, Natal Indian Congress, and other groups.

Socialist auto worker runs for Mich. governor

BY MARK LEWIS

LANSING, Mich. — "My campaign demands that the Michigan National Guard be withdrawn from Honduras now and that the Minnesota National Guard stay out of Austin," declared Kate Kaku, who had just returned from participating in a solidarity rally with Hormel strikers in Austin, Minnesota.

Kaku, an assembly line worker at the Chrysler Sterling Heights plant outside Detroit, spoke at a news conference here where she opened her campaign as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Michigan.

The news conference also began the campaigns of Socialist Workers Party candidates Tim Craine for lieutenant governor and Andrew Pulley for the seat in the U.S. Congress currently held by Democrat John Conyers. Craine is a member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. Pulley is an assem-

bly worker at the General Motors plant in Lake Orion and a member of United Auto Workers Local 5960.

Kaku denounced Gov. James Blanchard for not blocking the sending of Michigan National Guardsmen to Honduras, near the Nicaraguan border, for "training maneuvers." She also criticized Blanchard, a Democrat, for not speaking out against the Reagan administration's demand for \$100 million in military aid for the U.S.-organized counterrevolutionaries who attack Nicaragua from Honduras and Costa Rica.

She urged "the strongest possible solidarity with the Hormel strikers in Minnesota and the locked-out Hormel workers in Ottumwa, Iowa. They are fighting for all of us."

"Auto workers and others in Michigan, like workers across the country, face attacks on our jobs and living standards," she said. "The auto bosses are threatening to

shut down plants, such as Chrysler's Jefferson Avenue plant in Detroit, and to force antiunion Saturn-type contracts down our throats. I say nationalize the auto industry and break the auto bosses' stranglehold over our lives."

A member of the National Organization for Women, Kaku urged a big turnout in Washington, D.C., at the March 9 demonstration in support of a woman's right to abortion.

Craine, candidate for lieutenant governor, denounced Michigan's undemocratic election laws, which require the SWP and several other parties to collect 20,000 signatures to appear on the ballot.

Kaku announced that a statewide campaign rally will be held March 22 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the newly opened campaign headquarters at 2135 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. The phone number is (313) 961-0395.

Protest U.S. aid to contras

Continued from front page

elections that were held in February were marked by massive vote fraud and government violence. Marcos stole them. It took a popular revolt to force the tyrant to flee.

Nicaragua also had a dictatorship for decades. It was the Somoza dynasty, installed by Washington. It was Washington that trained the Somozas' private, brutal police force, the National Guard, remnants of which now lead the contra gangs.

As in the case of Marcos, Somoza was overthrown, despite Washington's best efforts, by a massive, popular insurrection. It was the Sandinista National Liberation Front that led that struggle and that is now leading the fight to build a new, independent Nicaragua.

Nicaragua's 1984 presidential elections — which the Sandinistas won with 67 percent of the vote — were not marked by ballot-stuffing and murder. In fact, they were the most democratic parliamentary elections ever to take place in Latin America. But democracy in Nicaragua doesn't begin and end at the ballot box.

Today, the Nicaraguan people enjoy the right to organize unions, peasant groups, women's groups, and other mass organizations; they enjoy the right to food, clothing, and shelter, however modest; the oppressed peoples of the Atlantic Coast enjoy the right to speak their own languages; young people can walk the streets without being murdered by the National Guard; and, most importantly, the Nicaraguan people no longer have to take orders from Uncle Sam — they are free. And they are willing to defend that freedom with their very lives.

The workers' and farmers' government there is a popular regime — so popular that it can arm the people without any fear that the guns will be turned against the government.

What Washington hates about Nicaragua is that there is no longer a "U.S.-Somoza dictatorship" looking out for Wall Street's profits; that Nicaragua is no longer in Washington's backyard.

That's why, since 1981, the U.S. imperialists have been waging a bloody war against Nicaragua, a war that has cost thousands of lives and caused millions of dollars of destruction — a war that continues while the contra aid is debated.

The White House claims that Washington's interest in pursuing this war is three-fold: to get the Nicaraguan government to "negotiate"; to stop the Sandinistas from "subverting" their neighbors; and to force Managua to loosen up the alleged totalitarian atmosphere in the country.

It's not just the charge of "totalitarianism" that collapses at the slightest touch.

As far as negotiations go, it's Washington that has refused to sign both the Contadora treaty and the more recent pact drafted by eight Latin American governments in Caraballeda, Venezuela.

It was Washington that broke off the bilateral talks with the Nicaraguan government in Manzanillo, Mexico, in January 1985.

The Sandinistas, on the other hand, have agreed to sign both documents and have a standing offer to resume talks with Washington.

The only negotiations the Nicaraguan government has rejected are talks with the contras. They point out that since the contra bands are a mercenary force — organized, financed, and directed by Washington — it's pointless to hold talks with them. In addition, the main contra leaders are the same people who used to torture and murder Nicaraguans under Somoza. The whole point of making the revolution was to get rid of them, not make agreements with them.

While Washington has never offered a shred of proof for its rote charges of Nicaraguan "subversion," there are lots of facts available about Washington's massive military buildup in Honduras, its aid and comfort to the murderous Salvadoran military and to the death squads, and its backing for repression in Guatemala — to name just a few.

Many of the liberals in Congress who oppose Reagan's contra aid package endorse the lies and slanders about Nicaragua.

The main complaint about the contras — from liberals and conservatives alike — is that they're ineffective. Reagan's whining that the contras won't survive without the \$100 million is designed to convince Congress to ante up. But it's also a damning admission that without being funded by a foreign power, the contras would be out of business. They are hated in Nicaragua because they want a return to Nicaragua's repressive past.

Antiwar fighters here have to organize our own "full-court press" to combat the lies and tell the truth about what Reagan's ill-named "freedom fighters" are doing to Nicaragua.

Getting out the facts — through forums, teach-ins, speak-outs, picket lines — is the job of the first order. March 16-24 is Central America Week, a good time for broad protests against the contra aid package.

On April 19 there will be an antiwar march and rally in San Francisco organized by a coalition that includes unionists, anti-apartheid fighters, peace activists, and others. More such actions are needed — especially on a national level.

We have to demand:
U.S. hands off Nicaragua!
No U.S. aid to the contras!

Sweeping new drug-test proposal

President Reagan's Commission on Organized Crime has recommended a program under which a majority of the workers in this country would be compelled to submit to tests for drug use. This would constitute a new assault on democratic rights. It is part of a concerted drive to make working people more vulnerable to employer attack.

In the name of combating "organized crime," the Reagan commission proposes that all government employees be required to submit to drug-use tests.

Federal contracts would not be awarded to companies that did not conduct such tests.

The commission further recommended that all employers, with or without federal contracts, institute such programs.

Responding to the immediate charges that such a move would be unconstitutional, a spokesperson for the commission assured that "in almost all cases it would be suitable."

A spokesperson for the 700,000-member American Federation of Government Employees assailed the proposal.

"We oppose the witch-hunt mentality," he declared. He charged that the tests would violate the Fourth Amendment, which guarantees against "unreasonable searches and seizures."

Rep. Don Edwards, chair of the congressional subcommittee on civil liberties, characterized the proposition as "repugnant."

"It makes people prove their innocence in advance," he said.

Major inroads against civil liberties have already been made with the mounting use of drug tests by private employers. Most widely publicized has been the use of the tests against professional athletes. But it's by no means confined to them. Under a federal ruling, 100,000 rail workers are now legally required to submit to such tests.

This is being challenged in the courts by rail unions.

Nor does it end there. One federal official estimates that within a year, half the nation's top corporations will have drug-test programs in place.

Many already do.

Job applicants are now required to submit to urinalysis tests at IBM, Lockheed, Exxon, TWA, Greyhound, and more.

In addition, a growing number of companies are using drug-sniffing dogs and undercover spies.

In the military during the past several years millions of urine specimens have been collected from GIs.

Several thousand have been drummed out of the service on the basis of these tests, which are by no means infallible. The Pentagon admits to an error rate of 5 percent. A corporate medical expert adds that marijuana users can test positive three months after their last smoke.

The potential for victimization involves far more than wrong test results. Selective use of such tests against union and political activists and others not in favor with the boss is inevitable. It is another form of intimidation.

Expanded use of the drug tests is accompanied by other calculated intrusions on privacy. One is the screening tests for AIDS. All armed forces recruits are now subjected to this and routinely rejected if they test positive. This despite the fact that a positive result does not establish that the person has the disease or ever will.

The use of the AIDS test is also getting a foothold in private industry. Add to this the government push for greater use of lie-detector tests and it should be apparent that what is involved is to increasingly establish — in fact and in the minds of working people — that the employers have a "right" to interfere in our lives.

The root purpose is simple enough. The less rights working people have the less we are able to defend ourselves against the exploiters.

Int'l Women's Day: March 8 marks legacy of struggle

March 8 is International Women's Day. It is celebrated throughout the world as a day to pay tribute to the fight for women's liberation and to the heroic role of women in movements against oppression and exploitation.

On this International Women's Day, special tribute is due the women of Nicaragua, South Africa, and El Salvador, who are on the front lines of the battle.

In the United States, International Women's Day will be marked by a massive outpouring for a woman's right to choose abortion. The March 9 and March 16 abortion rights demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles were called to coincide with International Women's Day and to call attention to the need for inter-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

national solidarity.

March 8 is associated with some of the epic battles fought by women. The following column by Cindy Jaquith gives a brief history of International Women's Day. It first appeared in the March 12, 1976, *Militant*.

* * *

Through the resurgence of feminism in the 1960s, we have restored March 8 as part of women's rightful heritage in this country. For decades, however, International Women's Day had been ignored in the United States, despite the fact that this holiday has its roots in the struggles of American working women.

On March 8, 1908, women garment workers in New York City took to the streets. They marched through the Lower East Side demanding the right to vote, the eight-hour day, an end to child labor, and an end to intolerable working conditions.

Working women, often led by the Socialist Party, played an important role in the suffrage movement in this country. In honor of the suffrage battles in the United States, the International Socialist Women's Congress, meeting in Copenhagen in 1910, declared March 8 International Women's Day.

March 8, 1911, saw a tremendous outpouring of women in Europe in support of suffrage. Alexandra Kollontai, the Russian revolutionary leader, described it in her pamphlet *International Women's Day*:

"Germany and Austria . . . were one seething trembling sea of women. Meetings were organized everywhere — in the small towns and even in the villages. Halls were packed so full that they had to ask workers to give up their places to the women."

"This was certainly the first show of militancy by the working women. Men stayed at home with the children for a change, and their wives, the captive housewives, went to meetings."

Then in 1917, the March 8 celebration that was to transform world history occurred. Russian women textile workers in Petrograd marked International Women's Day (February 23 by the Russian calendar) by going on strike, demanding bread and an end to the war. Their strike spread throughout the city, and soon Petrograd was engulfed in a workers' upsurge, which we now know as the February Revolution.

The Russian revolution snapped the economic chains that bound women. When the Bolsheviks came to power, they legalized abortion, built child-care centers, eased divorce laws, and repealed antihomosexual statutes.

The great strides forward in the emancipation of Russian women were betrayed when the counterrevolutionary regime of Joseph Stalin consolidated its grip.

The Russian revolution, nevertheless, marked a historic advance for women, illustrating that the struggle for female liberation is inextricably intertwined with the fight to end all forms of oppression under capitalism.



Struggle of women garment workers, shown above in 1909 demonstration on New York's Lower East Side, inspired International Women's Day.

S. African women fight for freedom from apartheid

*Fight for an Africa
where women are not slaves*

In 1955 the Minister of Native Affairs announced that "African women will be issued with passes as from Jan-



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

uary 1956." Up until this point, only African men had to carry the pass books, which controlled where they could work, live, and travel.

The proclamation turned out to be a call to battle for women in South Africa. It would be many years before the South African regime would succeed in imposing the pass laws on women.

They were years of demonstrations, civil disobedience, and solidarity as women organized in the cities and the countryside. Thousands of women were jailed, tortured, or forced into exile. Through the anti-pass-law campaign, and through participation in boycotts, trade unions, and other campaigns of the liberation movement, women fighters and leaders were forged.

Women knew what the pass laws meant. They had watched all their lives as African men were subjected to night raids, police roundups, loss of jobs, or being shanghaied to work on farms.

On Aug. 9, 1956, 20,000 women assembled in Pretoria, the seat of the apartheid regime, to protest the pass laws. Some had traveled thousands of miles.

In her book, *For Their Triumphs and for Their Tears*, Hilda Bernstein describes the demonstration:

"All Pretoria was filled with women. . . . Thousands of women wore the green and black Congress blouses; Indian women dressed in brilliant saris; Xhosa women in their ochre robes with elaborate headscarves."

Dorothy Zihlangu, a member of the United Women's Organization, remembers that day:

"The women stood in silence for 30 minutes as a sign of protest. The only noise in the whole amphitheater was the cry of babies."

"Then we went home and organized in our communities."

August 9 has been designated "Women's Day" by the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

At a special conference of the African National Congress in 1959 — the last before it was driven underground — a red banner draped across the front of the room hailed the emergence of women into the fight against apartheid. "Honor the women," it proclaimed simply.

Black women in South Africa know that there is no possibility of freeing themselves as women without destroying the apartheid system. But they have also recognized the need for the liberation movement to fight the specific oppression they suffer as women.

In 1954 the Federation of South African Women (FSAW) adopted a Women's Charter and Aims. The FSAW was allied to the Congress Alliance, an anti-apartheid front led by the African National Congress.

"We, the women of South Africa, wives and mothers, working women and housewives, African, Indian, Euro-

pean, and Coloured, hereby declare our aim of striving for the removal of all laws, regulations, conventions, and customs that discriminate against us as women" are the opening words of the charter.

"As members of the national liberatory movements and trade unions, in and through our various organizations, we march forward with our men in the struggle for liberation and the defense of working people. We pledge ourselves to keep high the banner of equality, fraternity, and liberty," the charter states.

"As women there rests upon us also the burden of removing from our society all the social differences developed in past times between men and women, which have the effect of keeping our sex in a position of inferiority and subordination," the Women's Charter continues.

The apartheid regime has chosen to interpret and enforce traditional and tribal laws and customs in ways that make women virtual slaves. These laws and customs, as the charter points out, correspond to a society that has long been destroyed.

African women are perpetual minors under South African law. Most have no rights to own or inherit property or to enter into contracts. They have no rights over their children, their earnings, or themselves.

The ANC, which today leads the revolutionary struggle against apartheid, has embraced the Women's Charter and its aims, a fact that immeasurably strengthens the struggle against apartheid.

When the apartheid regime falls — as it must — women will stand in the front ranks of those honored for their part in the movement. On that day will begin the building of a new nation in South Africa founded on equality: an "Africa where women are not slaves."

Cops cover up lynching of Black in Northern Calif.

BY CATHY SEDWICK

SAN FRANCISCO — On Nov. 2, 1985, the body of Timothy Lee was found hanging from a fig tree near the Concord Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station. In this city north of San Francisco, the police ruled the death suicide and closed the case within 24 hours.

But Lee's family and the Emeryville NAACP are convinced Lee was murdered because he was Black and gay. In January the NAACP requested that the FBI investigate possible violation of Lee's civil rights. On February 2 the NAACP filed a multi-million dollar wrongful death suit against BART on behalf of the family.

Concord has been the site of increasing racial harassment and violence in recent months. The NAACP reports it has received "numerous reports of racial intolerance" in Concord. Callers have reported

urine poured in cars, racist graffiti, and racial slurs.

The night Lee was killed, two young Black men — both gay — were stabbed by two white males in full Klan garb.

On February 9 the San Francisco Militant Forum heard Tammy Lee, Lee's sister; Elizabeth Casey, his stepmother; and Thordey Ashley of the Emeryville NAACP explain the facts surrounding Lee's death.

Tammy Lee explained that Lee, a student at the San Francisco Art Institute, worked in San Francisco and frequently fell asleep on the train from fatigue. Apparently, the night of his death he fell asleep on the last train and ended up in Concord. He was asked to leave the train. He began calling various friends and relatives trying to get a ride home. Unable to find a ride, Lee told his roommate that he would find a ride home somehow and would see him in

the morning.

According to new evidence, several screams were heard coming from the direction of the BART station approximately 15 minutes after Lee hung up with his roommate. In sworn affidavits to the FBI, two people living near the BART station say they heard three to four screams followed by a final scream that had a rising pitch and ended suddenly. Within 30 seconds, they heard people running on the street near their house and heard a car door slam.

Despite this evidence, the Concord police continue to maintain that Lee's death was suicide. Concord Police Chief George Straka said he is so convinced Lee killed himself, it would be "a waste of time" for the FBI to investigate.

According to Straka, Lee represents the profile of the highest suicide risk, persons who are gay, Black, and in their 20s.

The Lee family and the NAACP, however, point to several things that don't add up. His stepmother, Elizabeth Casey, explained that Timothy wanted more than anything else in the world to be a fashion designer. Lee was very close to fulfilling his dream, she said. He was at the top of his class at the art institute and had recently won a scholarship to Milan, Italy, to study design.

According to Lee's sister, his body was marked with cigarette burns, and the rope was dug deeply into his neck as if he had been dragged. The suicide note found near the body appeared to be the writing of Lee under duress. Names of family members, including his own, were misspelled.

The family and the NAACP are requesting that letters be sent to the Concord police department and the department of justice to press for a complete and thorough investigation of Lee's death.

LETTERS

Best reporting ever

I read the stories in the *Militant* covering the Groundswell rally and tractorcade held at the Minnesota State Capitol, and the continuing tractorcade that went on to Austin, Minnesota, to become part of the parade against Hormel and a rally at the United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 union hall. The reporting was the best ever.

It does the heart of an old Farm Holiday and union organizer good to read about such a tremendous outpouring of workers and farmers in support of each other. [The Farm Holiday was a farm protest movement in the early 1930s.] I was on the demonstration and can vouch for the quality of the *Militant* story. In no other newspaper was there such an in-depth report. In all my years of struggle out here, I have learned that only in the *Militant* can you find such truthful reporting — among such few pages.

But in trying to say a great deal in a few words about our joint struggle out here — of P-9 and other unions, as well as the many farm protest movements — no one said it much more eloquently than my very good friend and editor of the *Groundswell Newsetter*, Delores Swoboda out of Redwood Falls, Minnesota. In issue 20 she wrote:

"I wonder how much it is cost-

ing the taxpayer to send the National Guard to Austin? The T.V. shows that there usually are only a couple of hundred demonstrators there at a time, and then they call in 800 Guards.

"You see — we have the same trouble when we have a foreclosure rally. They call in all the police and deputies from 10 counties around, to do what? To protect the lender from us. We don't even carry a stick, and did you notice that the demonstrators at Austin didn't have any weapons either?"

"I read that the last bunch of National Guard came from Benson, Willmar, Sauk Centre and today they sent the Tracy Guards there. You know that we heard several months ago that the National Guards were being trained in handling farmer riots. So our tax money is being spent to train our own boys to oppose ourselves. It is trying to make those strikers look like the bad guy, just like we are made to look like the bad guy at the Courthouse steps.

"And yet the Constitution says that we have a right to demonstrate and defend our rights. Did you notice how the Capitol Police and Security Guards stood by very calmly with only a half dozen officers around there? Sensible people surely know how to handle things sensibly, rather than calling out for help from 10 counties or lying on the witness stand in an effort to

make the farmers look bad.

"We still have a few rights in this world and so do the strikers at Austin. They want to go to work, they want their jobs, but they want a 'fair' deal and don't we wish that the farmers could also get a 'fair' deal?"

John Enestvedt
Sacred Heart, Minnesota

'Wall Street Journal'

A recent editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* opened with the following:

"Are U.S. tax dollars paying for the transformation of El Salvador's economy into an inefficient, state-controlled socialistic system?"

Needless to say, the idiot who wrote this answers in the affirmative.

John Warren
Indianapolis, Indiana

A blessing

It has been a blessing to receive the *Militant*. Without it, it's hard to say what state of mind I would be in. The *Militant* keeps my hopes up and helps me do this time as a warrior for our struggle.

I would like to give special thanks to those who have made it possible for me to receive the paper. It is one of a kind.

A prisoner
Des Moines, Iowa

Cromwell

I was shocked to see a letter from Derrick Morrison in which the Lincoln administration is described as a "popular, revolutionary dictatorship," and a favorable comparison is drawn between Lincoln and Oliver Cromwell.

Whatever one's opinion of Lincoln, it is impossible for anyone with any knowledge of the history of Ireland to think of the imperialist tyrant Cromwell as "revolutionary." Motivated by greed and sectarian hatred, his armies invaded Ireland and subjected the Irish people to one of the most devastating periods in their long history of oppression at the hands of Britain.

The most famous of the Cromwellian massacres took place at Drogheda, where not only the defending garrison but thousands of noncombatant women and children were slaughtered. Not content with this genocidal campaign, Cromwell ordered the fraction of the population who had survived to be transplanted to the bogs of Connaught, so that the remaining fertile three-quarters of Irish land could be divided amongst his soldiers and the English Adventurers who had financed his expedition.

The war led to famine and disease, further decimating the population; an additional 30-80,000

young Irish men and women were sent into slavery in the American colonies and the West Indies. In retrospect, Cromwell was directly responsible for the murder of at least two-thirds of the Irish people.

The Irish people are still fighting to bring down the repressive imperialist system of which Cromwell was but one of the architects, and of which Margaret Thatcher is the current representative. The armed struggle of the Irish Republican Army will continue until victory is achieved and Ireland is a 32-county socialist republic.

Georgia Fleming
Editor, The Irish American Voice
Enterprise, Alabama

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Salvadoran workers protest austerity

New union coalition hits U.S.-backed war, repression

BY PAT GROGAN

Tens of thousands of Salvadoran workers marched through downtown San Salvador February 21 in the largest demonstration to date against the austerity program introduced by Salvadoran President José Napoleón Duarte.

The austerity program, imposed January 22 at the insistence of the U.S. embassy, is having a devastating effect on the already hard-pressed Salvadoran workers and peasants.

The February 21 demonstration was called by the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), a newly formed labor coalition that marks a big step forward in uniting El Salvador's unions in a fight against the policies of the U.S.-backed Duarte regime.

A report over Radio Venceremos, voice of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), hailed the creation of the UNTS as the "broadest labor front ever in the country's history."

The National Union of Salvadoran Workers was created February 8 when some 1,200 delegates from over 100 labor and union organizations met in San Salvador.

The coalition unites the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS) — the nation's largest trade union federation — with unions that until recently supported the Duarte regime and with several independent unions.

One of the top priorities of UNTS is to organize a fight to roll back the austerity measures. The new labor front also opposes the government's war policies and repression.

The UNTS called on the government to put "an end to persecutions, jailings, disappearances, and murders of laborers, students, peasants, professionals, and other citizens"



Workers demonstrating in El Salvador in 1985. Banner reads, "No to war taxes." On February 21 this year, new labor coalition organized largest demonstration to date against austerity program of President Duarte.

It called on the government to resume peace talks with the FMLN. Supporters of the FMLN, which is leading the armed struggle against the dictatorship, have been calling for renewed talks with the government. Instead, Duarte has been escalating the war.

The labor coalition also protested the role of the U.S. government in directing and escalating the war and its control over the policies of the Salvadoran government. It demanded that "the homeland's independence be recovered by stopping the practice of obtaining economic resources at the

expense of compromising the country's sovereignty. The U.S. government can continue to give us economic aid if it wishes, but it must be for the promotion of social development programs, not war."

The National Union of Salvadoran Workers also demanded an immediate across-the-board wage hike, job-creating programs, agrarian reform and relief for farmers from debts, and housing, health, and education projects.

Big changes have been taking place in El Salvador's labor movement over the past year.

FENASTRAS is El Salvador's largest union federation, with 23 major union affiliates and 100,000 members. It has been branded as "subversive" by the Duarte regime, and its leaders and members have been the targets of the right-wing death squads that operate in the country.

Last November, FENASTRAS was able to hold an open convention in downtown San Salvador, which was attended by Héctor Recinos, the country's best-known trade union leader. Recinos was able to return from exile to El Salvador for two days to attend the convention. He had been imprisoned since 1980, along with nine other leaders of the hydroelectrical workers union, and had been released in 1984 as a result of an international defense campaign.

The fact that the convention was able to take place openly was one indication of growing militancy and confidence on the part of El Salvador's working people.

There has been a steady increase in public activity by unions, peasant groups, refugees, and human rights activists during the past year. This has included strikes and street demonstrations in the capital city, even though Salvadoran working people risk their lives to participate in such activities.

As the Duarte regime failed to live up to its promises to end the war and repression and improve the economy, union officials who had backed Duarte for president came under more and more pressure from their members to support the strikes and protests being organized by other trade unions.

These strikes and protest actions took place in response to a wave of repression launched by the regime against the unions.

Thousands of postal workers went on

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South African workers back N.J. unionists

Three hundred Black workers walked off the job at a Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M) plant outside Johannesburg, South Africa, February 28. The action was in support of hundreds of U.S. workers whose jobs are threatened by that company.

The workers marched off their jobs to protest 3M's plans to close its plant in Freehold, New Jersey. The plant closing will leave 350 workers permanently laid off.

After marching off the job, the South African workers, members of the Commercial Catering and Allied Union, gathered outside the company's offices singing union and freedom songs.

The workers all wore white T-shirts with the slogans "Don't abandon Freehold, my hometown" and "No return, no surrender." The slogans are taken from songs by Bruce Springsteen, who is from Freehold and supports the campaign to keep the New Jersey plant open.

Explaining why they organized the job action, one worker at the Johannesburg plant told reporters that "they've [U.S. workers] supported us before."

Another South African worker told the press, "They're just workers same as us. We've suffered the same things."

Local 8-760 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, which represents the workers at the Freehold plant, had sent dozens of T-shirts to the 3M workers in South Africa last December, seeking their solidarity.

BY RASHAAD ALI

Haiti's ruling junta reimposed its dusk-to-dawn curfew on February 26 after continued protests of the regime's policies.

Thousands hit the streets as it became known that the government had played a role in the escape of hated police chief Col. Albert Pierre to Brazil.

Also spotlighted in the protest was the Haitian people's demand for a government without those most closely identified with former U.S.-backed dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Pierre was the head of the Bureau of Inquiries between 1974 and January 1986. This secret police body often picked up, interrogated, and tortured opponents of Duvalier's regime at the Dessalines army barracks — police headquarters and prison in the center of Port-au-Prince. It's said that Pierre was responsible for many deaths at that prison.

On February 23 army troops and police escorted Pierre and his wife from the Brazilian embassy, where they had received asylum, to the airport. They took a charter jet to Brazil.

Protesters gathered outside the Brazilian embassy, and others rushed to the airport in hopes of stopping Pierre's departure.

Justice Minister Gérard Gourgue — head of the Haitian League for Human Rights and one of two civilians in the six-member junta — was reported to be "extremely angry" when he found out that a decision had been made to provide safe passage for the hated police chief. Gourgue said the organized escape was "shocking and offensive to public opinion."

On February 24 Gourgue went on official television to disassociate himself from the decision to release Pierre. He promised

to meet the demands of the people for justice.

Aides to Gourgue said he was not told of the junta's decision to release Pierre. "He heard about it on the radio, just like everybody else," said one aide.

Gourgue later refused to participate in a government ceremony at the Presidential Palace.

It turned out that the Pierre send-off was not an exceptional action. The February 26 *New York Times* reported that "the army is giving 'protective custody' to some 20 senior members of the security forces and of the widely hated militia known as the Tontons Macoutes."

This protection is to prevent the people

from carrying out "Operation Uproot" — as street justice is now called in Haiti.

The March 4 *Washington Post* reports that the military on February 25 tried to organize the escape of another notorious former police official, Luc Desyr. However, an airport employee telephoned a local radio station to report that his name was on the passenger list for an Air France flight to Puerto Rico.

Desyr was taken away by soldiers after thousands of protesters rushed onto the tarmac and blocked the runway.

As late as February 25 the junta said that it had no intention of prosecuting those

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March 9th participants

join us for discussion and refreshments

The Young Socialist Alliance invites you to an

OPEN HOUSE

Phoenix Park Hotel, 2nd floor

520 N. Capitol St., Washington, D.C.

(corner Massachusetts Ave., 5 blocks north of Constitution Ave.)

Sunday, March 9, 1986

3:00-7:00 p.m.

HEAR: Jackie Floyd, National Co-chairperson, Young Socialist Alliance, and others.

If you would like to volunteer to help sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, you can find us at the Pathfinder Press literature displays at the assembly and rally sites.